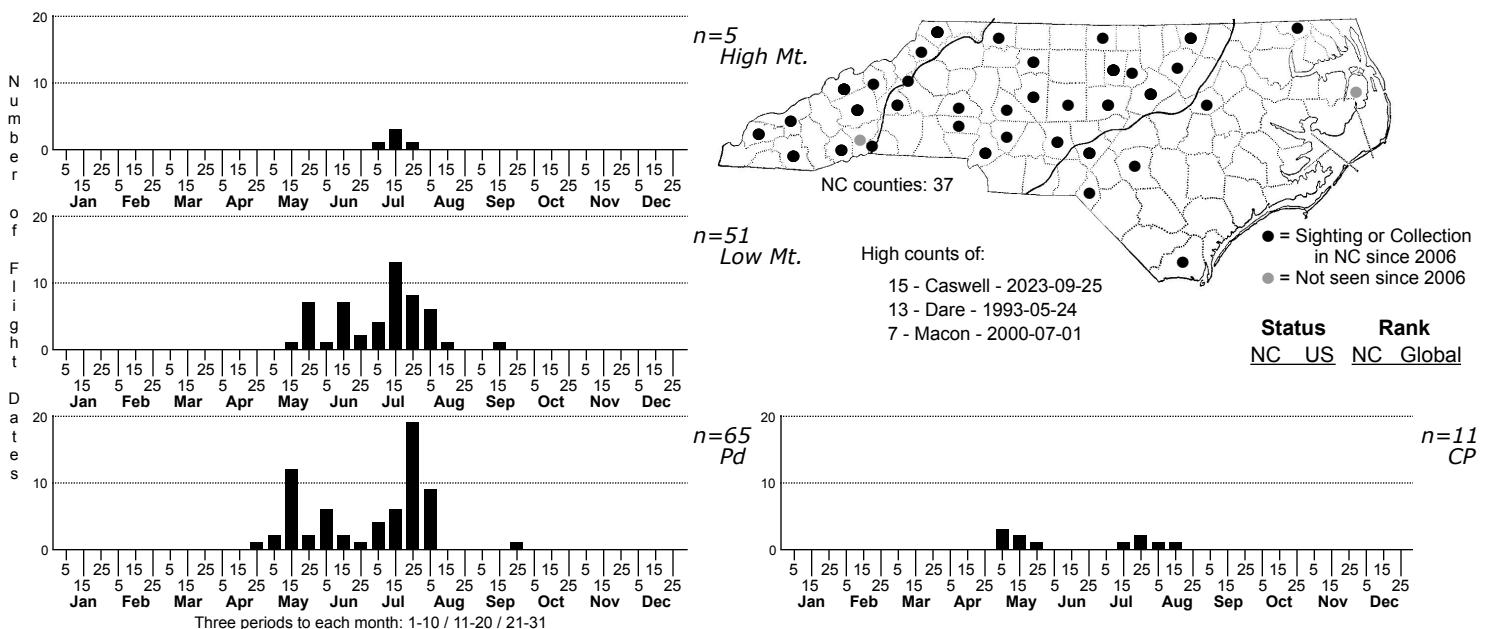


Apoda y-inversa Yellow-collared Slug Moth



FAMILY: Limacodidae SUBFAMILY: TRIBE:

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: <i>Apoda y-inversa</i> is one of five members of the genus that occur in North America, three of which occur in North Carolina.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984); Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1923)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Dyar and Morton (1895); Wagner (2005)

ID COMMENTS: In this species the head, palps, antennae, thorax, dorsum of the abdomen, and ground color of the forewings are creamy yellow or pale orange to light brown, with a scattered dusting of reddish brown specks. The forewing has a reddish to dark brown median line that runs from near the mid-point of the inner margin to just beyond the mid-point of the costa. A similar line runs in the opposite direction from the costa to the outer margin near the tornus. Together they form a trapezoidal shape. This species has two distinctly different forms, with numerous gradations in between. Both forms show an X or vertical hour glass shape that is centered inside the trapezoid. These are the only markings on the light form and they are sometimes faint. On the dark form, the trapezoid is filled with dark brown or black scaling, with the loops of the hour glass lighter and having the same color as the lighter ground color of the forewing. The length from the tip of head to the apex of the forewing for a resting individual averages 13 mm (n = 5).

DISTRIBUTION: <i>Apoda y-inversa</i> is found throughout most of the eastern US and in adjoining portions of southern Canada (Ontario; Quebec; New Brunswick). In the US the range extends from Maine southward to southern Florida, and westward to central Texas, central Oklahoma, central Kansas, Iowa and Minnesota. This species occurs in all three physiographic provinces in North Carolina, but is relatively uncommon in the Coastal Plain and at the higher elevations in the Blue Ridge.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults mostly fly from May through August in most portions of the range, with a more extended flight season in the southernmost populations. As of 2023, our records extend from early May through mid-September. Populations in the Coastal Plain and Piedmont appear to be bivoltine, while those in the Blue Ridge probably have only one generation per year.

HABITAT: This species is generally associated with deciduous woodlands.

FOOD: The larvae feed on broadleaf trees, with hickories appearing to be particularly important (Dyar and Morton, 1895; Wagner 2005; Heppner, 2007; Murphy et al., 2011). The reported hosts include American Hornbeam (<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>), Shagbark Hickory (<i>Carya ovata</i>), Mockernut Hickory (<i>C. tomentosa</i>), American Beech (<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>), and oaks (<i>Quercus</i>). In North Carolina, we have observed larvae feeding on hickory.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are readily attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 S4S5

STATE PROTECTION: Has no legal protection, although permits are required to collect it on state parks and other public lands.

COMMENTS: This species is relatively common in the Blue Ridge and Piedmont and appears to be secure within the state.