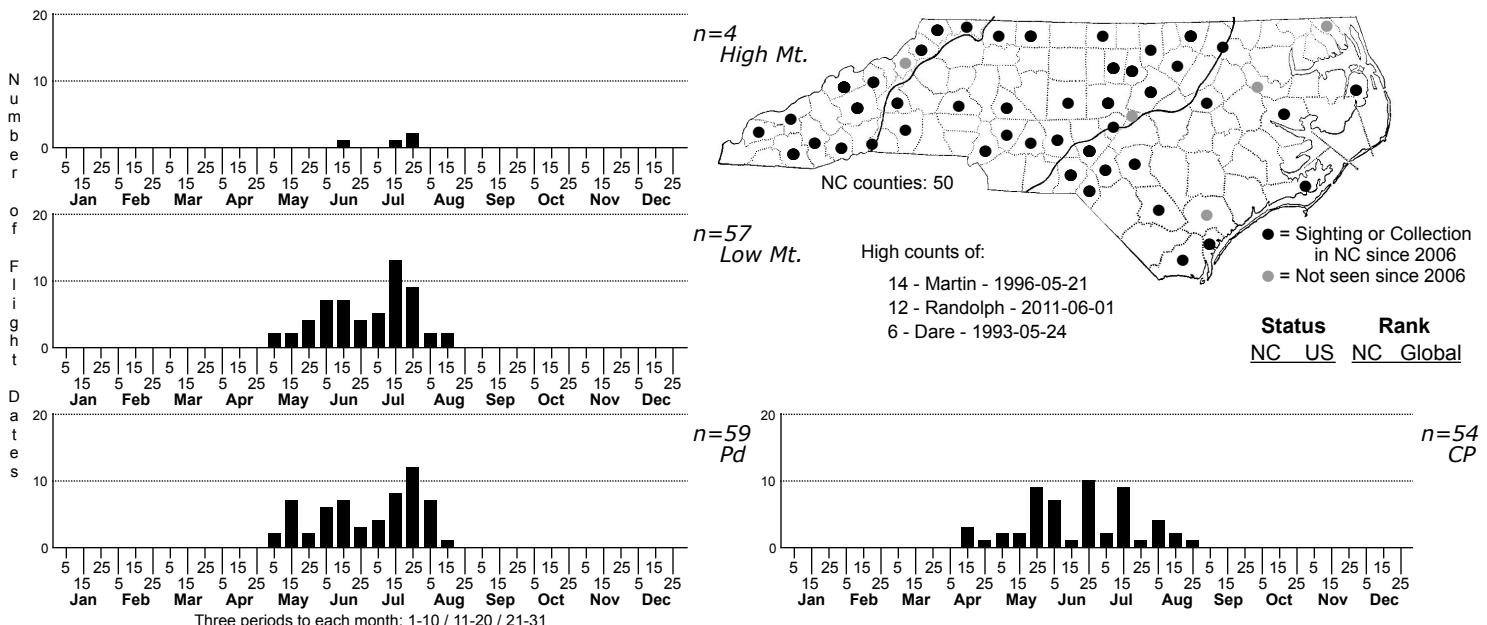


Apoda biguttata Shagreened Slug Moth



FAMILY: Limacodidae SUBFAMILY: TRIBE:

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: This is one of five members of the genus that occur in North America, three of which occur in North Carolina. This species was formerly placed in the genus *Cochlidion*.

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1923)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Dyar, 1897b; Wagner (2005)

ID COMMENTS: In this species the antennae are brown and the head, palps, and thorax vary from creamy white to light brown. The distal half of the forewing is occupied by a broad "Y" shaped mark that is filled with brown to brownish gray scales and margined on all sides with a wide whitish line. The proximal half of the forewing is light brown with a diffuse longitudinal cream-colored streak that extends from the base of the middle of the wing to the Y-shaped mark described above. The other conspicuous marks are a chestnut-colored, tear-dropped shaped mark at the apex and a similarly-colored spot at the anal angle that is smaller and more rounded, and nested within the "V" of the "Y" shaped mark. Individuals often rest with the abdomen raised and curled forward above the wings. The abdomen is brown with whitish stripes along the sides that match those of the Y-shaped mark on the forewing. Together, they appear to act as disruptive coloration that breaks up the outline of the body. *Apoda biguttata* is most similar in appearance to the dark form of *A. y-inversum*, but the "Y" on that species is dark brown and bordered by dark lines. The length from the tip of head to the apex of forewing at rest averages 12 mm (n = 7).

DISTRIBUTION: *Apoda biguttata* occurs throughout much of the eastern US and adjacent regions of southern Canada (Ontario; Quebec; New Brunswick; Nova Scotia). In the US the range extends from Maine southward to Florida, and westward to central Texas, central Oklahoma, Missouri, Iowa and Minnesota. This species occurs statewide in North Carolina from the barrier islands to the higher elevations in the Blue Ridge.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults fly from February through October in Florida and other southern localities, and mostly from April through September farther north. As of 2023, our records extend from early May through mid-August. Populations appear to be univoltine in North Carolina.

HABITAT: Our records come primarily from stands of wet to mesic hardwoods, with almost none from Longleaf Pine habitats, peatlands, or dry maritime habitats.

FOOD: The larvae feed on deciduous hardwoods (Dyar, 1897b; Wagner, 2005; Heppner, 2007; Beadle & Leckie, 2012). Dyar (1897b) only found the larvae on oaks in New York, with most on White Oak (*Quercus alba*) and few on other oaks. Other reported hosts include American Hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*), hickories (*Carya*), and American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*). In North Carolina, the species has been recorded feeding on American Hornbeam and Turkey Oak (*Quercus laevis*).

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are readily attracted to lights but not to bait or flowers.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 [S5]

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

COMMENTS: *Apoda biguttata* is common across the state and uses a wide range of habitats and host plants. This species appears to be secure in North Carolina.