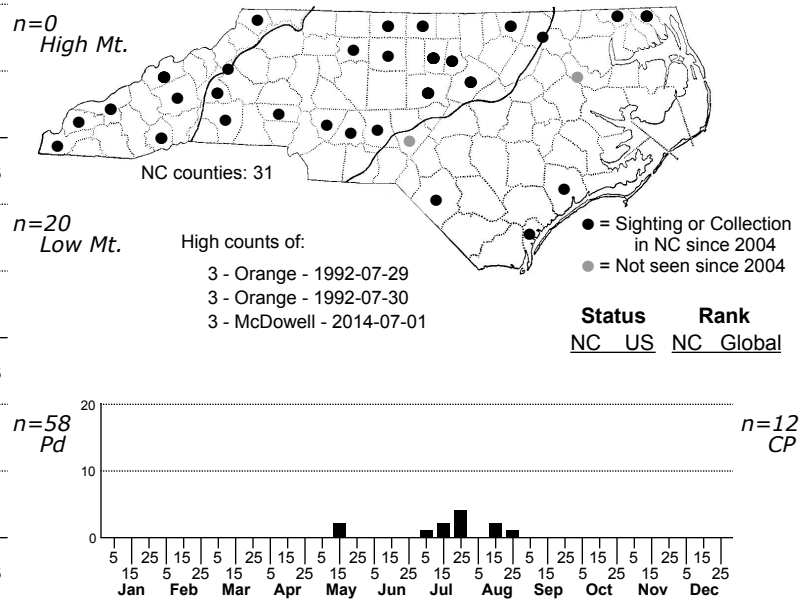
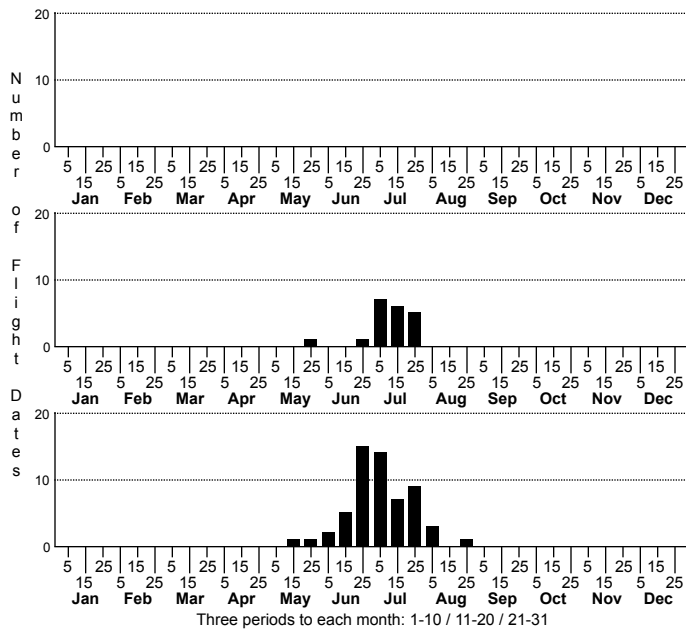


## *Isochaetes beutenmuelleri* Spun Glass Slug Moth



FAMILY: Limacodidae SUBFAMILY: TRIBE:

TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS: *Isochaetes beutenmuelleri* is the sole member of the genus in North America.

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1923)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Dyars (1907); Wagner (2005)

ID COMMENTS: This is one of the smaller limacodids with the length from the tip of the head to the apex of the forewing at rest averaging 8 mm ( $n = 8$ ). The head, thorax, and forewing has a marbled patchwork of orange, dark brown, cream, rusty-red and black coloration, and the females tend to be darker than the males (Covell, 2005). There is a darker-edged, pale, oval mark that is centered in the subterminal area, but this mark is more difficult to discern on dark and worn individuals. The back of the head, thorax, and legs have prominent tufts of raised scales. The "bottle brush" like middle pair of forelegs are particularly noticeable and are often held straight out from the body. The hindwings vary from reddish-brown to brown and approximate the overall color of the forewings.

DISTRIBUTION: *Isochaetes beutenmuelleri* is mostly found in the southeastern US, with the range extending from Maryland and vicinity southward to central Florida, and westward to central Texas, eastern Oklahoma, Arkansas, southern Missouri, southern Illinois, southern Indiana, and southern Ohio. This species occurs in all three physiographic regions in North Carolina, but as of 2023 has not been documented at the higher elevations in the Blue Ridge, and appears to be rare in the southern two-thirds of the Coastal Plain.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been observed from March through October in different areas of the range, with the primary flight period from May through September. As of 2023, our records are from mid-May through late-August, with a seasonal peak in June and July. Populations in North Carolina are univoltine.

HABITAT: Most of our records come from wet to mesic stands of hardwoods, including bottomland and riparian forests, lakeshores, and mesic hardwoods.

FOOD: Dyars (1907) noted that the larvae are polyphagous and use a variety of hardwood species with smooth leaves, but did not specify which ones other than Northern Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*). Wagner (2005) and Heppner (2007) listed American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) and oaks as hosts. In North Carolina, we have recorded the species feeding on beech.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights, but may be better sampled using sheets rather than traps. Like other limacodids, it does not appear to come to bait or visit flowers.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G4 [S4]

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

COMMENTS: *Isochaetes beutenmuelleri* occurs across a wide area of the state, although records are absent from or sparse in some areas, such as much of the southern Coastal Plain and the higher elevations in the mountains. This species is associated with fairly common habitats and host plants, and thus seems secure within the state.