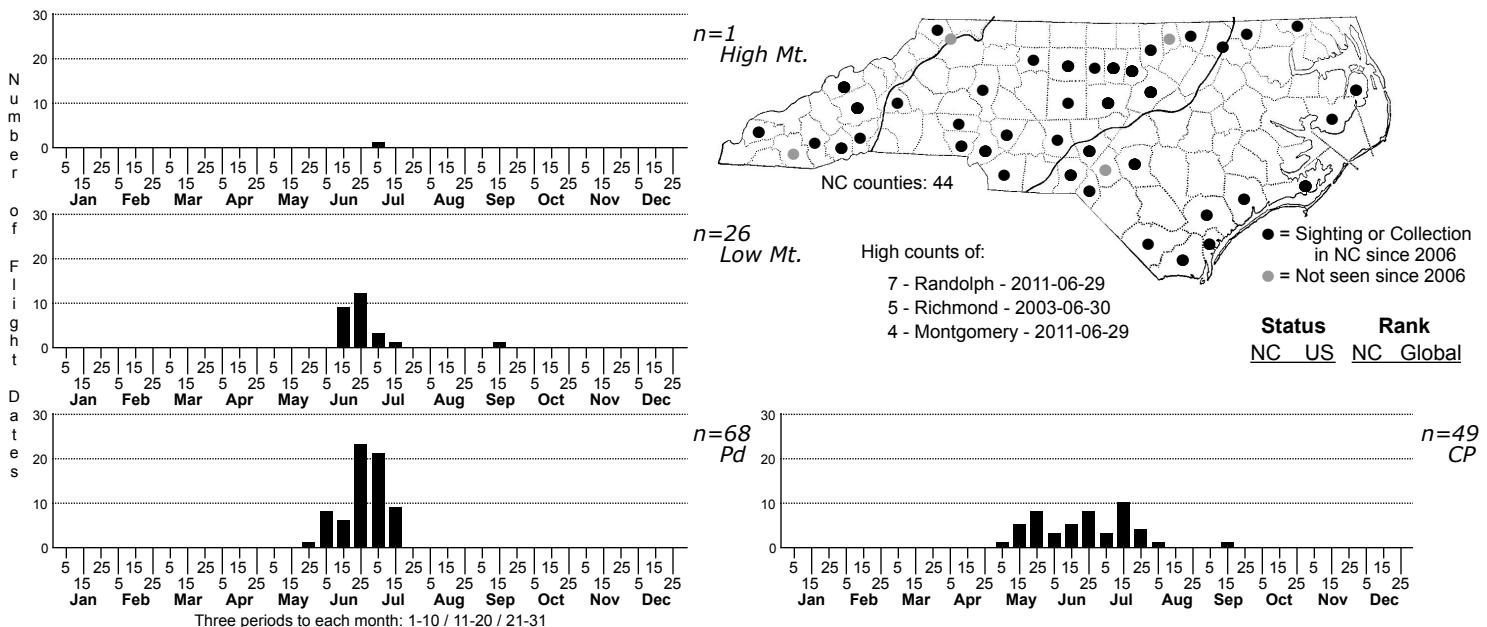


# *Natada nasoni* Nason's Slug Moth



FAMILY: Limacodidae SUBFAMILY: TRIBE:

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: This is one of only two representatives of this genus in North America and the only one to occur in the East.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1923)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Dyars (1899); Wagner (2005)

ID COMMENTS: In this species the thorax and head tend to be rusty brown and the antennae and palps brown. The ground color of the forewing varies from grayish brown to yellowish brown and has scattered, dark brown flecking throughout. The forewing has two dark, straight lines that are pale-edged posteriorly. One line runs diagonally from about the midpoint of the inner margin to the subapical region of the costa at about four-fifths. The other runs parallel to the outer margin from near the anal angle to the costa just below the apex. The two lines converge towards the costa, but do not join and are separated by a small gap. This species does not rest with the abdomen curled upward between the wings as seen in some slug moths.

DISTRIBUTION: *Natada nasoni* is mostly found in the southeastern US, with the range extending from Long Island, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, southward to southern Florida, and westward to central Texas, central Oklahoma, southeastern Kansas, Missouri, and southern Illinois. This species occurs statewide in North Carolina from barrier islands along the coast to lower and mid-elevational sites in the Blue Ridge.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been found from February through November in Florida, but mostly fly from April through September elsewhere. Local populations in North Carolina are univoltine, which is likely the case for most populations throughout the range. As of 2023, our records extend from early May through early August, with one late-season record from mid-September.

HABITAT: Our records come from a wide range of hardwood-containing habitats. These include maritime forest and scrub on the barrier Islands, bottomland and other riparian and lakeshore habitats, dry oak-hickory forests in the Sandhills and Piedmont, and mesic forests in the Blue Ridge. This species is also commonly found in semi-wooded residential neighborhoods.

FOOD: The larvae are polyphagous and feed on deciduous hardwoods (Dyars, 1899; Wagner, 2005; Heppner, 2007; Robinson et al., 2010; Murphy et al., 2011; Marquis et al., 2019). The reported hosts include birches (*Betula*), American Hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*), Pignut Hickory (*Carya glabra*) and other hickories, American Chestnut (*Castanea dentata*), American Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*), American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), Common Waxmyrtle (*Morella cerifera*), Black Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*), American Hop-hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*), Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*), White Oak (*Quercus alba*), Chestnut Oak (*Q. montana*), Chinquapin Oak (*Q. muehlenbergii*), Northern Red Oak (*Q. rubra*), Black Oak (*Q. velutina*), and elms (*Ulmus*).

In North Carolina, larvae have been recorded feeding on Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*), American Hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*), hickory, American Persimmon, Bear Huckleberry (*Gaylussacia ursina*), Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), White Oak, Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*), and Willow Oak (*Q. phellos*).

OBSERVATION METHODS: Readily attracted to lights. Like other limacodids, the adults do not come to bait or visit flowers.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 [S5]

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

COMMENTS: This species occurs statewide in North Carolina and occupies a wide range of habitats. It also utilizes a large number of host plants, many of which are common. It appears to be secure in our state.