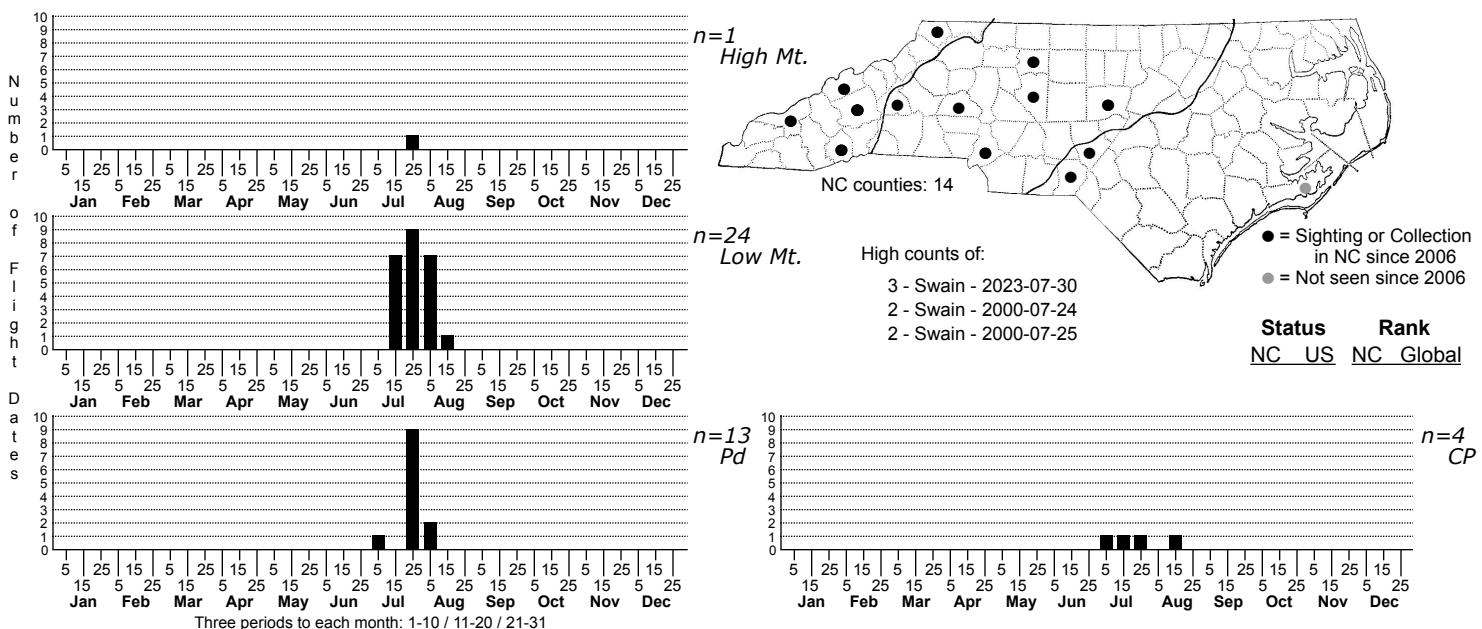


Adoneta bicaudata Long-horned Slug Moth



FAMILY: Limacodidae SUBFAMILY: TRIBE:

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: The genus *Adoneta* contains four recognized species in North America, with all but one occurring in North Carolina.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1923)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Wagner (2005); Marquis et al. (2019)

ID COMMENTS: In this species, the head, thorax, palps, antennae and ground color of the forewings vary from light yellowish tan to light reddish-brown. The thorax is covered with long hairs, and the legs tend to be a darker shade than the overall body color. Dark brown or blackish shading is often present along the margins of the thorax and on the apical fourth of the forewing. The forewing is marked with two whitish lines. The first extends from the inner margin at about one-third the length from the base to the tornus. It curved slightly posteriorly before terminating near the middle of the wing. The second extends from the costa at about four-fifths and parallels the termen before ending near the middle of the wing. Both lines are often faintly edged with blackish scales along the distal and proximal margins. Specimens typically have four black spots that include a curved line of three spots just beyond and interior to the postmedian white line, and a single spot that is costal to and between the ends of the two white lines. The fringe is usually darker than the general ground color, and the hindwing is similar in color to the forewing, but of a lighter shade. This species generally resembles *Adoneta pygmaea*, but the latter is much smaller, lack the row of three black dots, and is rare in North Carolina, with only a single record from the Sandhills as of 2023.

DISTRIBUTION: *Adoneta bicaudata* occurs in the eastern US from New Jersey and Maryland westward to southern Ohio and southern Indiana, and southward mostly through the Appalachian region to South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama. There is one isolated record from southeastern Arkansas. As of 2023, our records are all from the Blue Ridge eastward to the central Piedmont, except for a single specimen from Carteret County along the coast. BOLD shows two BINS for this species, with the coastal record being in a separate BIN from specimens in the main range that includes the Piedmont and Blue Ridge of North Carolina.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been observed from June through November, but with a strong seasonal peak in July. As of 2023, our records are from early-July through mid-August.

HABITAT: Our records are mostly from deciduous hardwood forests or wooded residential areas.

FOOD: The larval hosts are poorly documented, but presumably are deciduous hardwoods, as is the case with all of our other slug moths. Seifert et al. (2021) list Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*) and oak, and BugGuide and MPG have records of caterpillars apparently feeding on Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*), Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), an oak (*Quercus*), a greenbrier (*Smilax*), and a *Wisteria*.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights and the caterpillars can be found on the undersides of leaves of the host plants.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S3-S4]

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

COMMENTS: *Adoneta bicaudata* appears to be somewhat uncommon in North Carolina, with scattered populations reported from the Blue Ridge and Piedmont. Additional information is needed on its host use and abundance before we can accurately assess its conservation status.