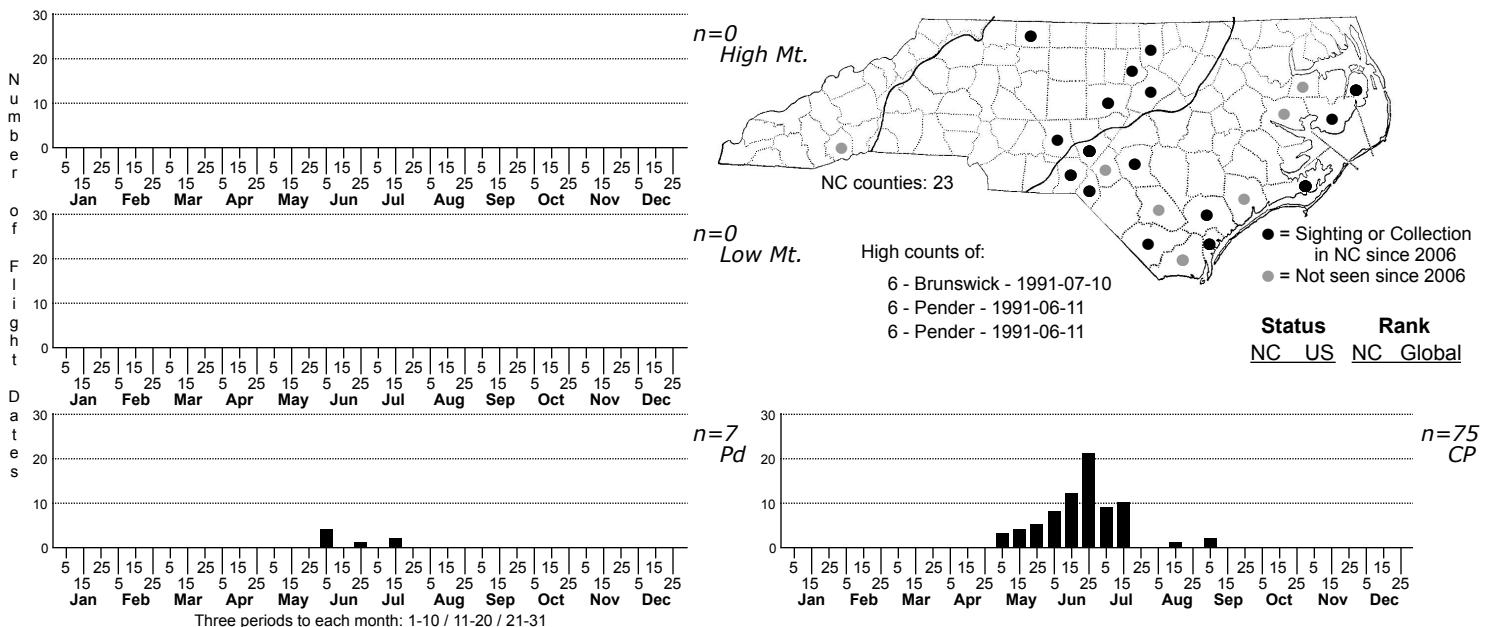


Monoleuca semifascia Pin-striped Vermilion Slug Moth



FAMILY: Limacodidae SUBFAMILY: TRIBE:

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: *Monoleuca semifascia* is one of two representatives of this genus that are currently recognized in North America. Both occur in the east, but only *M. semifascia* has been documented in North Carolina.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (2005)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Wagner (2005)

ID COMMENTS: This species is entirely warm brown or reddish brown, except for a silvery white to yellowish white, transverse, wavy line that runs from before the midpoint of the inner margin to the middle of the wing. The line varies in appearance from being relatively wide and obvious to being very thin or barely discernible.

DISTRIBUTION: *Monoleuca semifascia* is primarily found in the southeastern US. The range extends from eastern Texas to Florida, and northward to southeastern Kansas, Missouri, southern Illinois, Kentucky, Indiana, Virginia and northward along the Atlantic Coast to New York. We have records from all three physiographic provinces, but the majority are from the Coastal Plain, with a few records from the Piedmont and one from a lower elevation site in the Blue Ridge.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults fly from January through October in Florida, and typically from April through October farther north. Most populations have a seasonal peak from June and July. As of 2023, our records extend early May through early September.

HABITAT: Most of our records come from dry habitats such as dry woodlands, flatwoods, Sandhill communities, and dune scrub on barrier islands. However, we also have at least a few records from wet savannas and peatlands.

FOOD: The larvae are polyphagous and feed on deciduous hardwoods (Wagner, 2005; Robinson et al., 2010; Marquis et al., 2019). The reported hosts include Pecan (*Carya illinoensis*), American Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*), Sweet Cherry (*Prunus avium*) and other cherries, White Oak (*Quercus alba*), Black Oak (*Q. velutina*), Saw Greenbrier (*Smilax bona-nox*), and presumably many other woody plants. In North Carolina, larvae have been recorded feeding on Yaupon Holly (*Ilex vomitoria*), greenbrier (*Smilax* sp.), and Small Black Blueberry (*Vaccinium tenellum*).

OBSERVATION METHODS: Readily attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S3S4]

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

COMMENTS: Given that the reported food plants are widespread, other habitat factors, such as xeric conditions, are likely to be important factors in controlling the distribution of this species in the state.