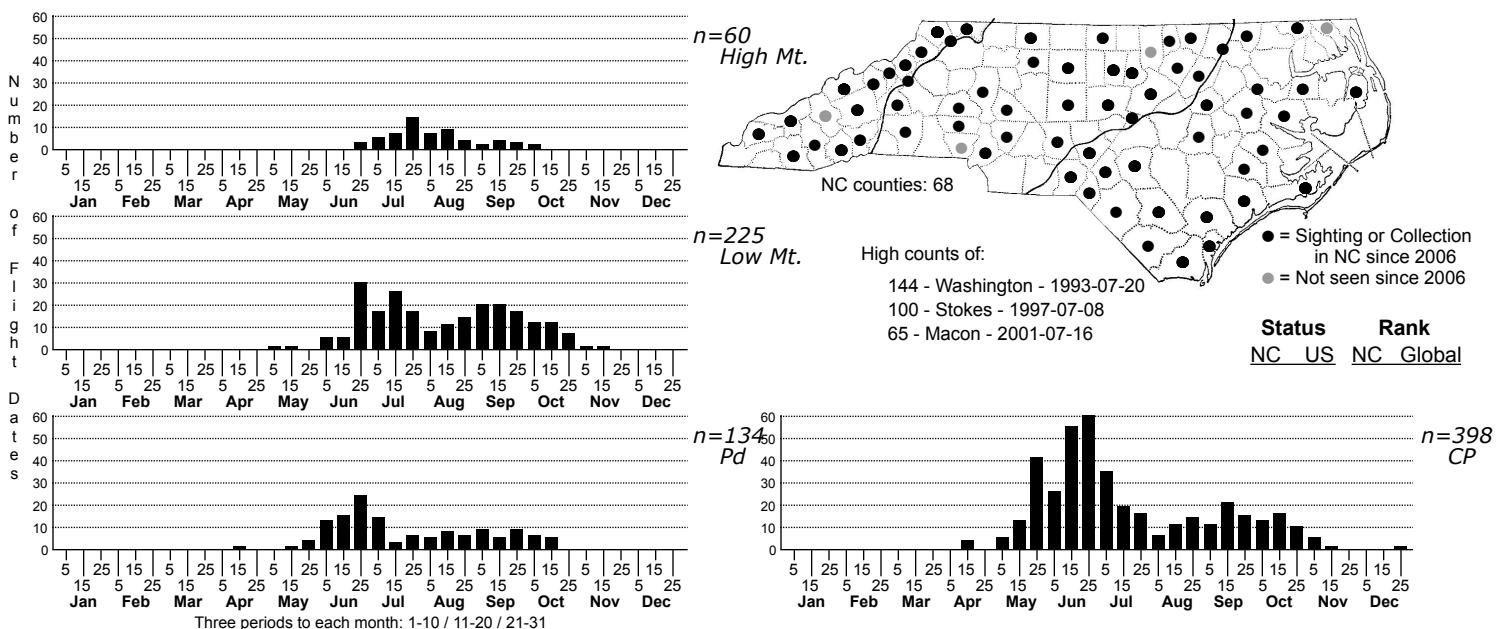


Prochoerodes lineola Large Maple Spanworm Moth



FAMILY: Geometridae SUBFAMILY: Ennominae TRIBE: Ourapterygini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: A moderately large genus primarily of the tropics with some 34 species, of which 7 have been recorded in the US and one reaching North Carolina. Phenotypically, they are all very similar and our species is no exception.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984; as *Prochoerodes transversata*); Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1948; as *Sabulodes transversata*)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Forbes (1948); Wagner et al. (2001); Wagner (2005)

ID COMMENTS: A large Geometrid likely to be confused only with *Eutrapela*, which has scalloped wing margins, whereas they are smooth in *Prochoerodes*.

DISTRIBUTION: Recorded from across the state, from the Barrier Islands to the High Mountains.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Our collection dates indicate there are at least two broods with adults found primarily in early summer and early fall. This is consistent with migratory species but may also indicate that a few pupae survive the winters. In Florida and southern Georgia they appear to occur more frequently in the early spring months.

HABITAT: Recorded from essentially all habitats within the state, open beach dunes to high elevation spruce-fir forests.

FOOD: Larvae feed on a broad range of plants from grasses to trees. Wagner et al. (2001) specifically list fir (*Abies*), maple (*Acer*), birch (*Betula*), walnut (*Juglans*), larch (*Larix*), spruce (*Picea*), poplar (*Populus*), cherry (*Prunus*), oak (*Quercus*), currant (*Ribes*), willow (*Salix*), meadowsweet (*Spiraea*), dogwood, hemlock (*Tsuga*), blueberry (*Vaccinium*), and *Viburnum*. In North Carolina, we have reared it in Craven County from American Holly (*Ilex opaca*). Jeff Niznik also reared a larva found on greenbrier (*Smilax*) wrapped around a Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*); both plants were accepted in captivity. Larvae have also been observed on Black Locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*), cherry, and buckthorn (*Rhamnus*).

OBSERVATION METHODS: Adults seem to come readily to light but not to bait.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S5]

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

COMMENTS: We suspect that few individuals overwinter in North Carolina and that we get annual migrations in the spring that are able to establish temporary, but recurrent breeding populations throughout the state. In any case, this species is so widespread and its host plant and habitat range so great that it appears to be quite secure in North Carolina.