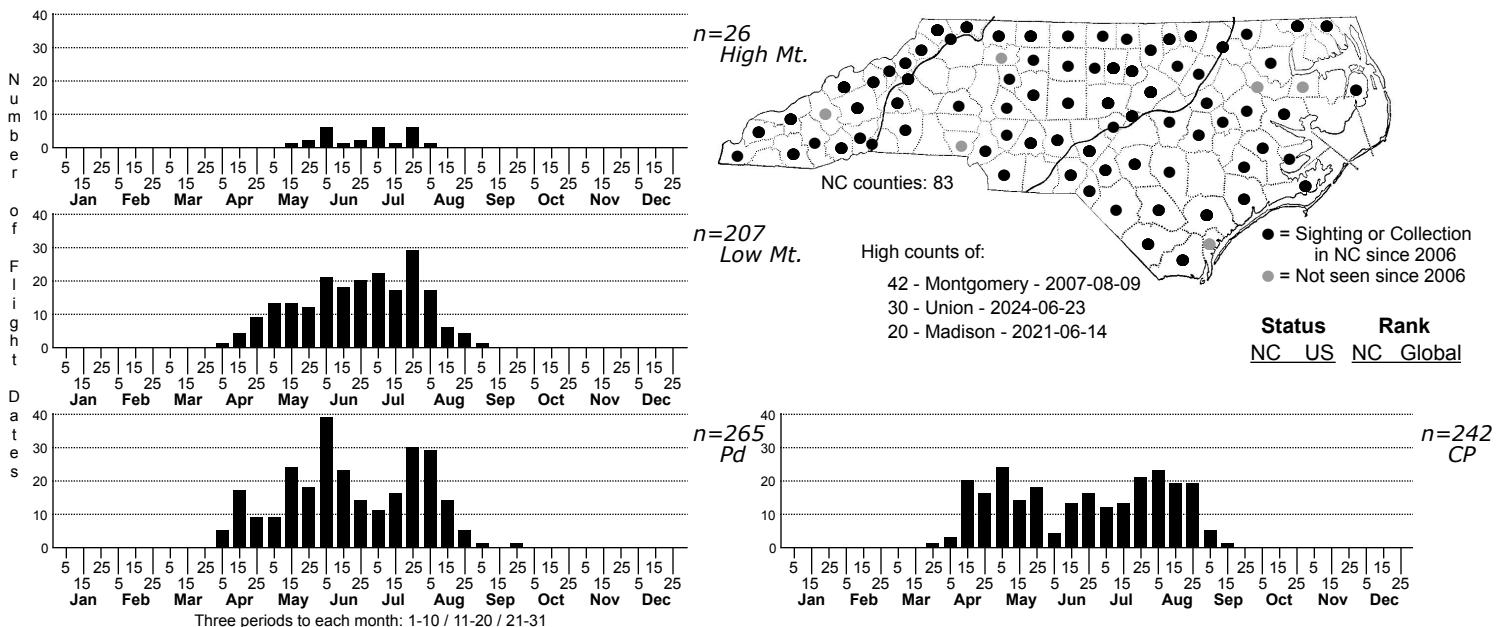


# *Dryocampa rubicunda* Rosy Maple Moth



FAMILY: Saturniidae SUBFAMILY: Caratocaminae TRIBE:

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: The only member of its genus (see Ferguson, 1971, for its separation from *Anisota*). Several color forms have been described, one of which -- *alba*, a nearly all white form -- Ferguson recognized as a distinct subspecies. Only the typical bicolored form occurs in North Carolina, however.

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1923), Ferguson (1971), Tuskes et al. (1996)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Forbes (1923), Ferguson (1971), Covell (1984), Tuskes et al. (1996), Wagner (2005)

ID COMMENTS: The bright yellow and pink adults are nearly unmistakable. Only the Pink Prominent (*Hyparpax aurora*) and Primrose Moth (*Schinia florida*) are similar in color, although usually smaller. The subterminal area is yellow in S. florida, but red or pink in both *Dryocampa* and *Hyparpax*. The thorax of *Dryocampa* is completely yellow-orange, whereas in *Hyparpax* there is usually some pink color (Covell, 1984). The antemedian line is somewhat smoothly curved in *Dryocampa* but sharply angled in *Hyparpax* (Covell, 1984).

DISTRIBUTION: Occurs statewide (Brimley, 1938), except, perhaps on the Outer Banks and other barrier islands

FLIGHT COMMENT: Probably double-brooded over most of the state (Brimley, 1938)

HABITAT: Maples -- particularly Red Maple -- occur in nearly every type of forested habitat in eastern North America. Not surprisingly, *Dryocampa* has been found in a wide variety of forests, ranging from swamps and peatlands in the Coastal Plain, to river bottomlands and mesic slopes throughout the Piedmont and Low and High Mountains. In addition to natural areas, it also occurs commonly in wooded residential area. We have no records for the Outer Banks and other barrier islands, however, including Nags Head Woods, Fort Macon State Park, and Bald Head Island, all of which have had intensive moth surveys.

FOOD: Larvae feed mainly on maples (<i>Acer</i> spp.), including Red Maple (<i>A. rubrum</i>), Sugar Maple (<i>A. saccharum</i>), Silver Maple (<i>A. saccharinum</i>), and Box-elder (<i>A. negundo</i>) (Ferguson, 1971). In some areas, however, it has also been found on oaks, including Turkey Oak (<i>Q. laevis</i>) (Ferguson, 1971). In North Carolina, we have found larvae primarily on Red Maple, with a few records from oaks, including White Oak (<i>Q. alba</i>).

OBSERVATION METHODS: Adults of both sexes come well to lights, including both blacklights and incandescent. Early instar larvae are gregarious, and in outbreak years can be quite conspicuous. Pupation occurs underground.

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: Populations are locally vulnerable to the effects of weather, outbreaks of disease, parasites, and predators, and to the effects of pesticides. However, given the commonness of their host plants, wide habitat range -- including suburban areas -- and statewide distribution, this species can easily recover from localized losses. Unlike several other species of Saturniids, *Dryocampa* has remained abundant in the Northeast (Wagner, 2012) and may not be as vulnerable to the effects of Compsilura parasitism.