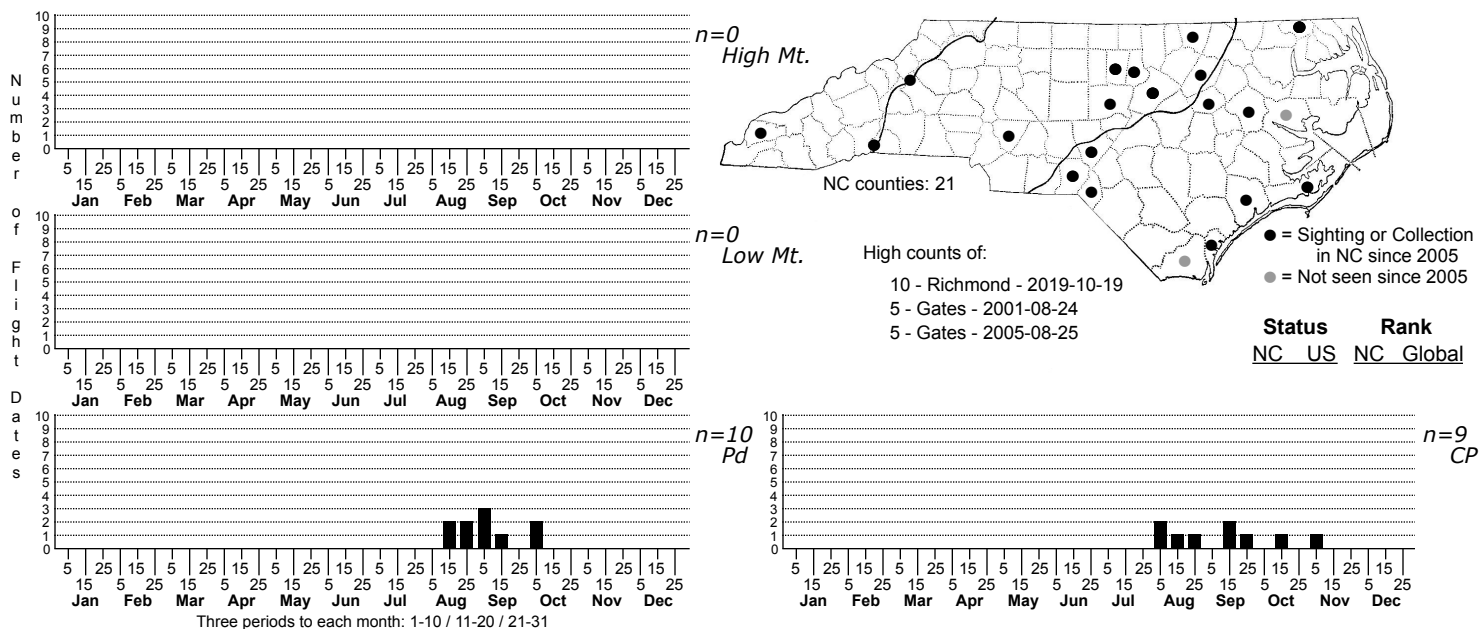


Eumorpha fasciatus Banded Sphinx



FAMILY: Spingidae SUBFAMILY: Macroglossinae TRIBE: Macroglossini

TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: This is largely a Neotropical genus but 12 species are recorded from the U.S. and 5 from North Carolina.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1948); Hodges (1971); Tuttle (2007)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Forbes (1948); Wagner (2005); Tuttle (2007)

ID COMMENTS: Fore-wings are marked with light brown costal and outer margins, a paler y-shaped stripe that divides the median area into a three dark zones, and a series of narrow light lines running from the costa to the inner margin; hindwings are pinkish or crimson along the outer and inner margins. *Eumorpha vitis* is very similar but lacks the tan stripe along the costa. *Hyles lineata* is also similar but has only a single pale line running through the center of the wing and has a wider band of pink on the hindwing. Sexes are similar.

DISTRIBUTION: Larval records so far are limited to the Outer Coastal Plain. Adult records are scattered more widely over the eastern half of the state but at least some could represent migrants or strays.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Probably a single brood. This species occurs with some frequency primarily in the late summer and fall.

HABITAT: Nearly all of our records -- both for larvae and adults -- come from shoreline habitats, including both freshwater and saltwater, probably in association with wetland species of *Ludwigia*.

FOOD: Larvae are stenophagous, feeding on members of the Onagraceae (Wagner 2005), including evening-primrose (*Oenothera*). As of 2024, all of our larval records are all associated with *Ludwigia*, including Bushy Seedbox (*L. alternifolia*) and Anglestem Primrose-willow (*L. leptocarpa*).

OBSERVATION_METHODS: Adults visit flowers but not bait. Adults have been recorded at 15 watt UV lights but the scarcity of records suggests that higher intensity lights, such as mercury-vapor, may be needed to accurately assess its distribution and abundance.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S3S4]

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

COMMENTS: This species appears to be uncommon in North Carolina, although neither habitat or host plants appear to be limiting factors. Larvae have been observed feeding on *Ludwigia* several times at Merchant' Millpond State Park, establishing its status as a resident species. Recent larval records from a number of counties suggests that it has breeding populations across most of the state.