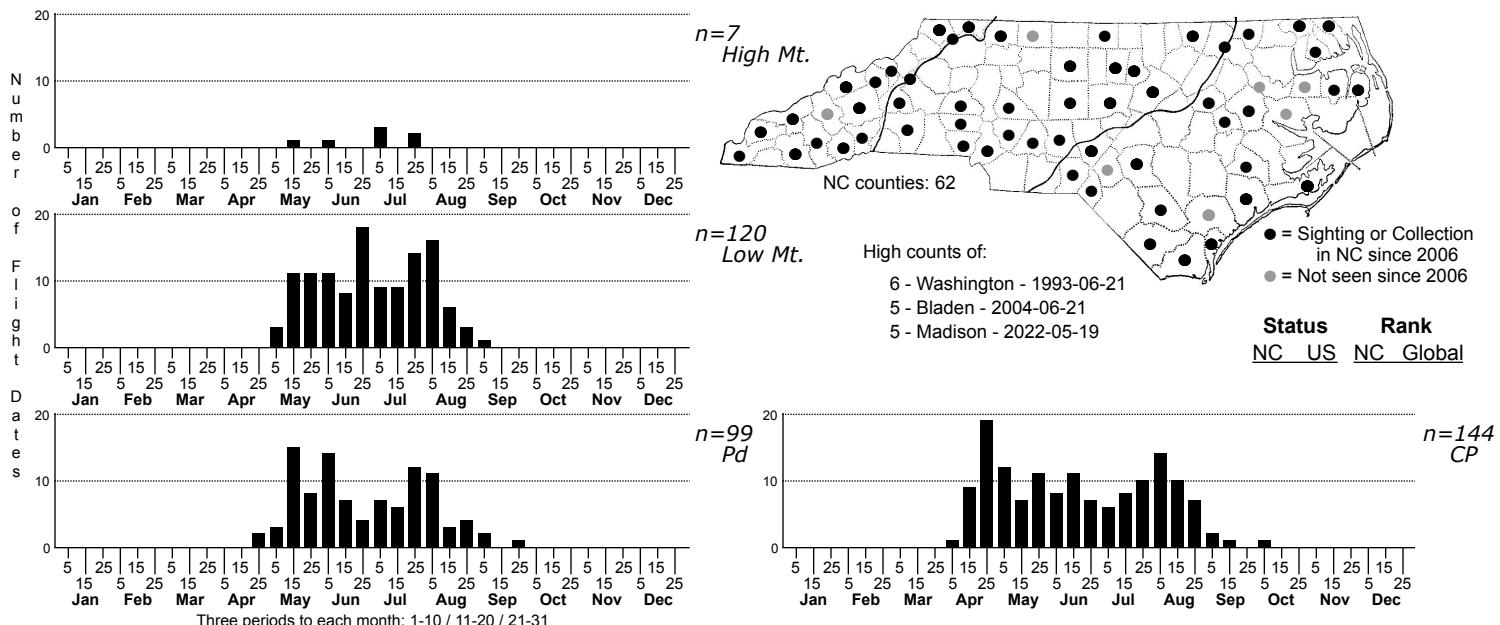


## Darapsa myron Virginia Creeper Sphinx



FAMILY: Sphingidae SUBFAMILY: Macroglossinae TRIBE: Macroglossini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: This genus of medium sized moths contains three species, all found in North Carolina.

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

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

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

ID COMMENTS: A moderately small Sphinx moth that is broadly banded with tan or olive green on its body and forewings; hindwings are extensively reddish orange. The bands are broader than in *Darapsa versicolor* and the body lacks the mid-dorsal stripe found in that species. The postmedian line in *D. myron* is curved, whereas it is straight in *D. choerilus*, a generally redder and slightly larger species. Sexes are similar.

DISTRIBUTION: Occurs statewide, including the Barrier Islands and High Mountains

FLIGHT COMMENT: Probably three broods over most of the state but perhaps only two in the mountains. Adults are flying most of the growing season.

HABITAT: Habitats seem to be the same as for several other Vitaceae-feeding Sphinx moths, including dune and scrub communities on the Barrier Islands but hardwood-dominated forests over the rest of the state. Most of our records come from bottomland or mesic forests but there are also some from drier ridges.

FOOD: Larvae are stenophagous, feeding on members of the Vitaceae, including grapes and Virginia Creeper (Wagner, 2005). In North Carolina, we have observed larvae on Muscadine (*Muscadina rotundifolia*), Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*), and Summer Grape (*Vitis aestivalis*).

OBSERVATION METHODS: Adults visit flowers and are attracted to bait. Comes well to 15 watt UV lights.

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: Given its wide distribution across the state, broad range of habitats and use of common host plants, this species appears to be secure.