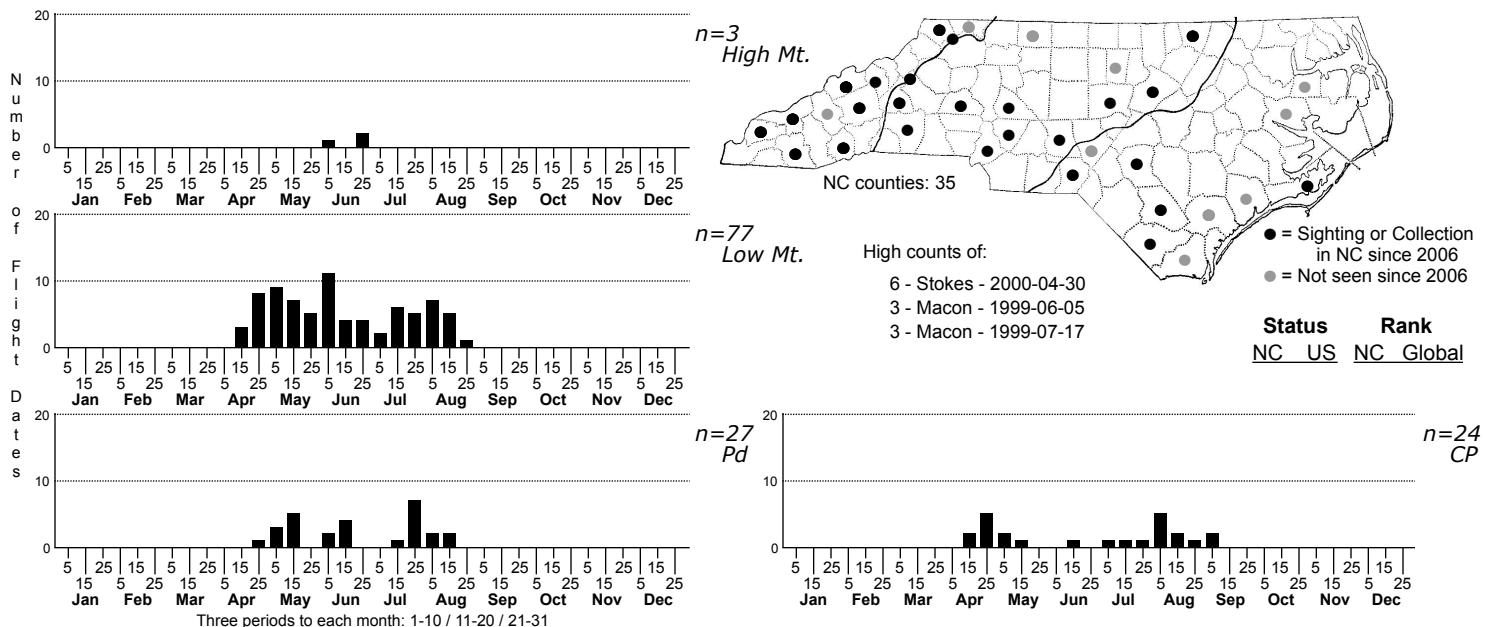


Darapsa choerilus Azalea Sphinx



FAMILY: Sphingidae SUBFAMILY: Macroglossinae TRIBE: Macroglossini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: This genus of medium sized moths contains three species, all found in North Carolina. Long known as *D. pholus*, the correct name for this species is *choerilus*. Tuttle (2007) gives a history of these names.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984; as *Darapsa pholus*); Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

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

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

ID COMMENTS: Intermediate in size between the larger *Darapsa versicolor* and the smaller *D. myron*. *D. choerilus* is a redder color than those species and is distinguished by its straight postmedian line (curved in the other two). Sexes are similar.

DISTRIBUTION: Widely distributed in the state except possibly the Barrier Islands.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Probably single brooded in the Mountains and double brooded in the Piedmont and Coastal Plain.

HABITAT: Occurs more frequently in peatland and Longleaf Pine communities than the other two members of this genus, probably in associations with Azaleas and/or *Viburnum nudum*, an acidophilic species of Viburnum. Conversely, it does not appear to be present on the Barrier Islands where neither Azaleas nor Viburnums occur. Over most of the state, it also occurs in bottomlands, mesic slopes, and basic forests where Viburnums are common members of the shrub layer. In the Mountains, it occurs in cove forests, high elevation hardwoods, and possibly heath balds, all of which support a diversity of Azaleas.

FOOD: Reported hosts include *Rhododendron*, *Gaylussacia*, *Viburnum*, and *Nyssa* (Wagner, 2005; Mejia et al., 2020). We do not have any feeding records in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION METHODS: Adults frequent flowers and come to bait. Comes regularly to 15 watt UV lights and is also seen around outdoor lights on buildings.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S4S5]

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.