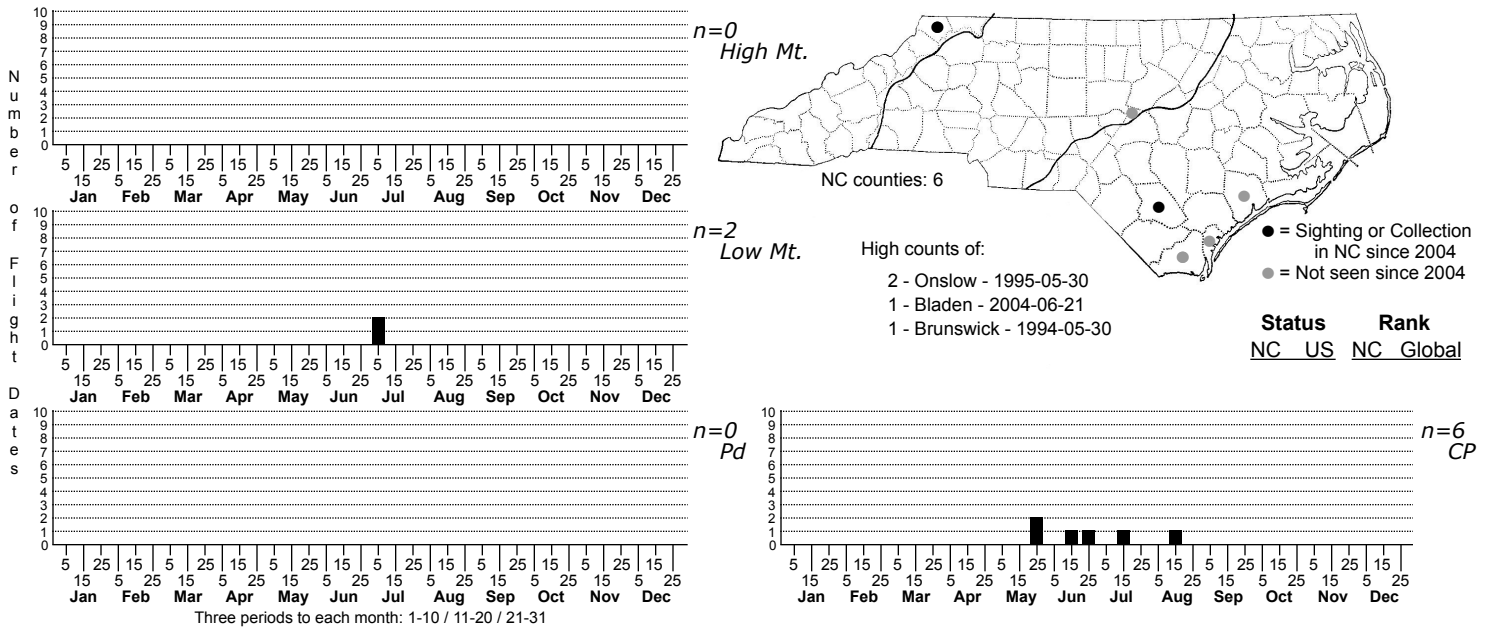


Coelodasys apicalis Plain Schizura Moth



FAMILY: Notodontidae SUBFAMILY: Heterocampinae TRIBE:

TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: One of eight described species in this genus that occur in North America (Lafontaine and Schmidt, 2010; at least one other undescribed species also exists); six (plus the undescribed species) have been recorded in North Carolina.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1948); Schweitzer et al. (2011)

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

ID COMMENTS: A medium-small Prominent, variably mottled with white, gray, or brown on the forewings, with the hindwings white in males except for a dark apical patch; the hindwings of the females are blackish. A thin black basal dash is present, and the crescent-shaped black reniform on the forewing is also narrow and not surrounded by a pale patch or followed by black shades or streaks, as it is in other species of Schizura. The antemedian and postmedian lines are conspicuous in some specimens, obscure in others, and are waved between the veins; where visible, the postmedian is usually cleancut, double, and filled with white (Forbes, 1948).

DISTRIBUTION: Our records are concentrated in the southern half of the Coastal Plain, but with one in the northern mountains

FLIGHT COMMENT: Our records extend from May to late August, with no clear evidence for separate flights.

HABITAT: All but two of our records come from Longleaf Pine habitats in the Coastal Plain. Species of Morella are usually present in those habitats, at least along ecotones with pocosins and other peatlands. Willows are also present at several of the sites, associated with depressional wetlands or old beaver ponds. Both willows and poplars are present along the New River, where this species has been recorded in the mountains.

FOOD: Possibly polyphagous, with Bayberry, Wax Myrtle, Blueberry, Willow, and Poplar all recorded as host plants (Wagner, 2005).

OBSERVATION_METHODS: Comes to blacklights, but always in just ones or twos within a given sample.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G3G4 S1S2

STATE PROTECTION: Listed as Significantly Rare by the Natural Heritage Program. That designation, however, does not confer any legal protection, although permits are required to collect it on state parks and other public lands.

COMMENTS: This species has long been regarded as rare (e.g., Forbes, 1948) and has undergone a noticeable decline in the Northeast (Schweitzer et al., 2011). The reasons for this scarcity, however, are unclear. More information is needed on its exact host plant and habitat requirements before an assessment of its conservation needs can be made.