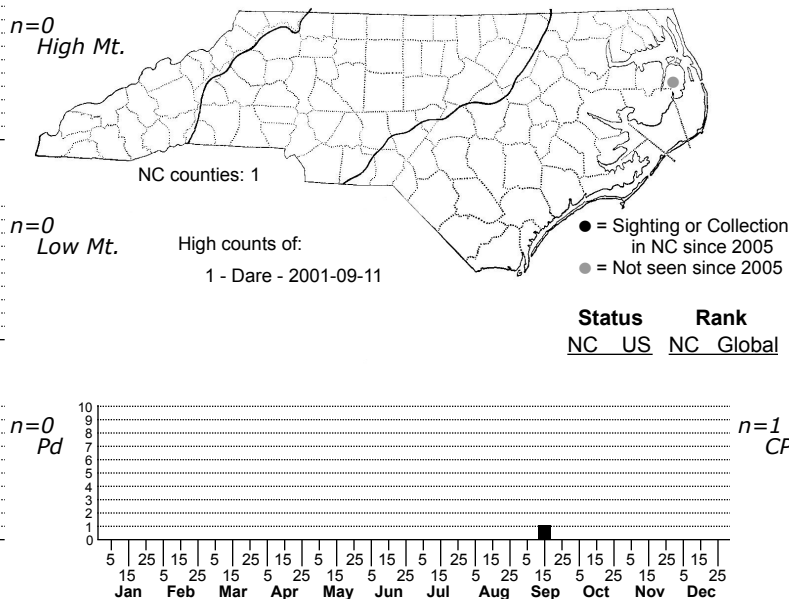


# Cosmosoma myrodora Scarlet-bodied Wasp Moth



FAMILY: Erebiidae SUBFAMILY: Arctiinae TRIBE: Arctiini

TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS: One of three species in this genus that occur in North America (Lafontaine and Schmidt, 2010) and the only one recorded in our area

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: (Not in Forbes, 1960)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Wagner (2005)

ID COMMENTS: Striking and unmistakable, at least if recognized as a moth rather than a wasp. The legs, thorax, and anterior half of the abdomen are a bright scarlet, with the head and the posterior portion of the abdomen an iridescent, metallic blue-black; wings are mainly wasp-like, being largely transparent with black veins and tips.

DISTRIBUTION: Only recorded at a single spot along the outer coast

FLIGHT COMMENT: Only recorded once, in the fall

HABITAT: Found once at Jockeys Ridge State Park, where Climbing Hempweed is known to occur (NRID, 2014).

FOOD: Larvae are monophagous, feeding on Climbing Hempweed (<i>Mikania scandens</i>) (Covell, 1984; Wagner, 2005). We do not have any feeding records in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: Diurnally active, feeding on flowers; not known how well it comes to light or bait.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5] SNR [SU]

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

COMMENTS: This very striking, diurnal species is very likely a rare stray in our state up from Florida