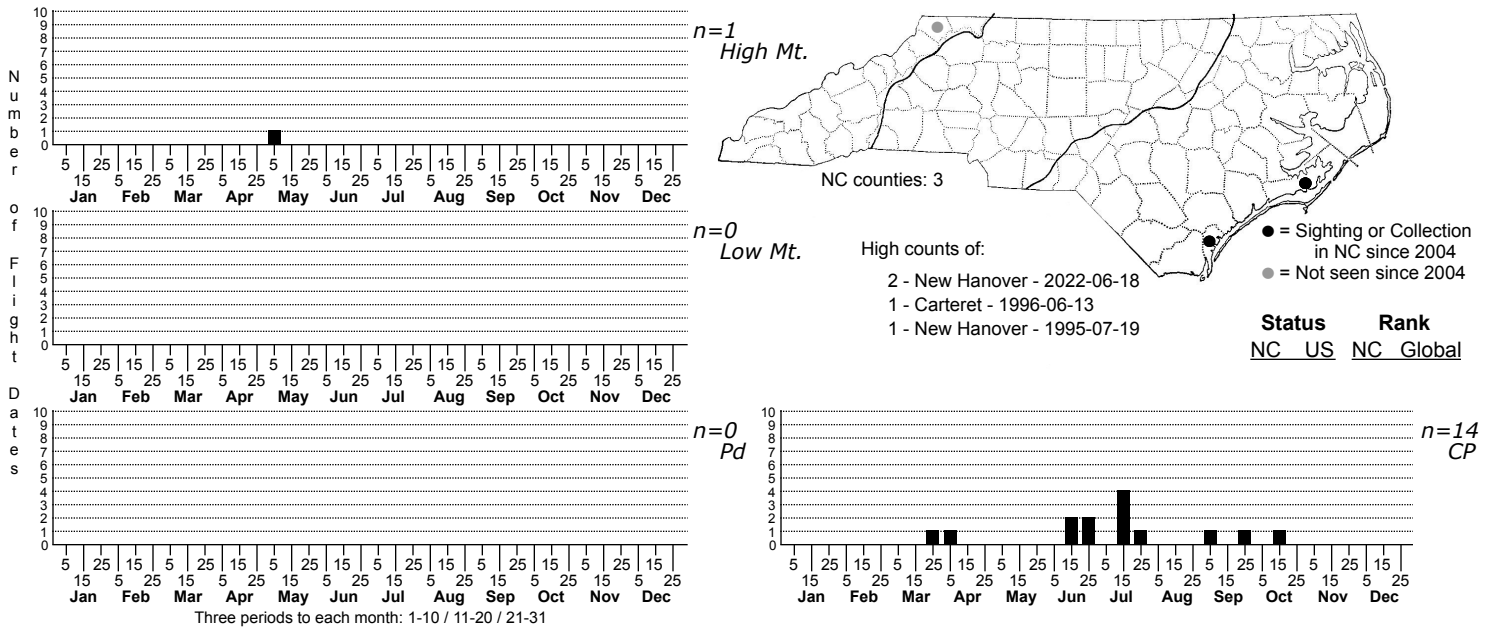


Litoprosopus futilis Palmetto Borer



FAMILY: Erebidae SUBFAMILY: Eulepidotinae TRIBE: (incertae sedis) Grp. 2

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of five species in this genus that occur in North America north of Mexico (Lafontaine and Schmidt, 2010)

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Grote and Robinson (1868)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Wagner et al. (2011)

ID COMMENTS: A medium-sized, light grayish- to yellowish brown Erebid. The head, body, and wings are concolorous, "greyish fawn" (Grote and Robinson, 1868); transverse lines are darker brown, double, and often incomplete; the orbicular and reniform are also darker brown. The most conspicuous marking are dark eyespots located at the anal angle of the hindwings. Photographs are acceptable as records for this species where they show the hindwings.

DISTRIBUTION: Found mostly along the coast but migrants have been observed in the mountains (J.B.Sullivan, pers. obs.) and can potentially show up anywhere within the state as migrants

FLIGHT COMMENT: Probably univoltine; our records for adults come from mid-June to mid-October

HABITAT: A breeding population has only been recorded in Beaufort in North Carolina, where it larvae were found feeding on planted Cabbage Palms. So far we do not have any records from Bald Head Island where our only native population of Cabbage Palm occurs.

FOOD: Larvae bore into the inflorescences of Cabbage Palm (Wagner et a., 2011), but have not been recorded on Dwarf Palmettos, our most common species

OBSERVATION_METHODS: This species appears to come poorly to lights. Caterpillars are known to come to bait (Wagner et al., 2011; J.B. Sullivan, pers. obs.)

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G4 S1S2

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

COMMENTS: Although larvae of this species have been found in Beaufort (J.B. Sullivan, pers. obs.), this species has yet to be observed at Bald Head Island -- despite extensive sampling -- where it could have its northernmost naturally occurring population. If documented, its population at that site would be of at least some conservation significance; continued efforts should be made to determine its presence and breeding status at that site. Elsewhere in the state, this species is mainly a migrant, where it has no conservation value; populations established on planted populations of Cabbage Palm along the coast likewise have little to no relevance for conservation.