

Pseudeva purpurigera Straight-lined Looper Moth

FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Plusiinae TRIBE: Plusiini TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: One of two species in this genus, only one of which occurs in North Carolina and the East; the other is Western (Lafontaine and Poole, 1991)

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984); Beadle and Leckie (2012) ONLINE PHOTOS: TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1954; as Plusia purpurigera); Lafontaine and Poole (1991) TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: A medium-sized, dull orange or yellow Looper with pink shading, flecked with brown, and with a bronzy sheen in the subterminal area (Forbes, 1948). No stigma is present and the other spots are often obscure. The most conspicuous marking is the pale postmedian line. Hindwings are pale fuscous.

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: Our sole record for this species comes from a cove forest.

FOOD: Larvae feed on meadow-rue (<i>Thalictrum</i>), including both Early Meadow-rue (<i>T. dioicum</i>) and Tall Meadow-rue (<i>T. pubescens</i>) (Lafontaine and Poole, 1991), both of which occur in mesic to wet forests in the North Carolina Mountains and Piedmont.

OBSERVATION_METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S1S2]

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

COMMENTS: This northern species has been recorded at only a couple of sites in North Carolina, all possessing high quality mesic forests where resident populations appear to exist.