



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Noctuinae TRIBE: Apameini TAXONOMIC COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: **ONLINE PHOTOS:** TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

**ID COMMENTS:** 

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT:

FOOD: Larvae are stenophagous, feeding on species of cane (<i>Arundinaria</i> spp.). All larval specimens from North Carolina have been collected from Giant Cane (<i>Arundinaria gigantea</i>). Giant Cane occurs in floodplains along rivers and streams and can form extensive canebrakes along secondary streams in agricultural areas. Cattle readily consume <i>Arundinaria</i> grazing can result in the complete destruction of local canebrakes.

OBSERVATION METHODS: Although the adults are attracted to lights, daytime searches for early instar larvae using a beating sheet is a more productive way to document local populations. This species often co-occurs with  $\langle i \rangle$  Protapamea louisae $\langle i \rangle$  and both species can be collected in May using beating sheets.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GU SNR [S1S2]

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

COMMENTS: This species is rare throughout its range because of its strong dependence on Giant Cane, which has suffered massive declines since European colonization. The remaining  $\langle i \rangle A$ , gigantea $\langle i \rangle$  populations in North Carolina continue to decline because of cattle grazing, mowing, and replacement by invasive species.

Rank