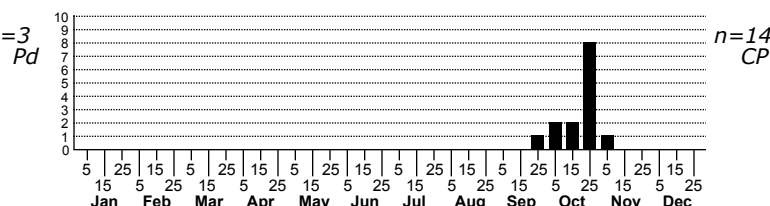
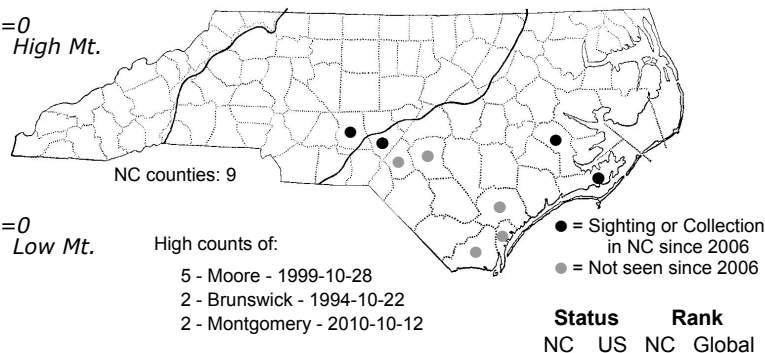
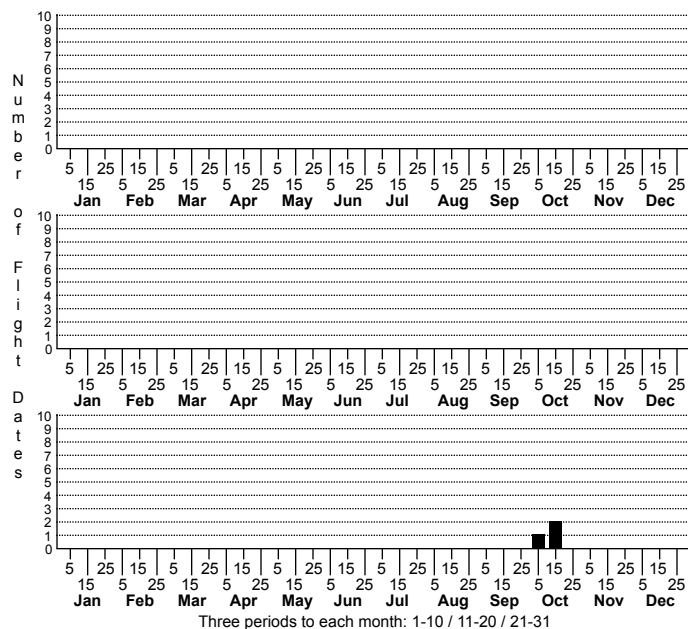


Papaipema speciosissima Osmunda Borer Moth



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Noctuinae TRIBE: Apameini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of 44 species in this genus that occur in North America north of Mexico (Lafontaine and Schmidt, 2010, 2015), 30 of which have been recorded in North Carolina

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984); Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The ground color is reddish to orange with the outer third darker and more purplish (Forbes, 1954). The reniform, orbicular and claviform are white, narrow vertical bars. The antemedian, median, and postmedian lines are brown. The postmedian is double and curves smoothly up towards the costa before making a sharp bend, then paralleling the costa to just above the reniform, where it fades out. *P. stenocelis* is similar but the postmedian does not make the sharp bend at the costa.

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: Our records come from seepage slopes, savannas, bottomland forests, and peatlands.

FOOD: Larvae bore into ferns, particularly Royal Fern (*Osmunda spectabilis*), but also Cinnamon Fern (*Osmundastrum cinnamomeum*) and Interrupted Fern (*Claytosmunda claytoniana*) (Wagner et al., 2011).

OBSERVATION_METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G4 SNR [S2S4]

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

COMMENTS: