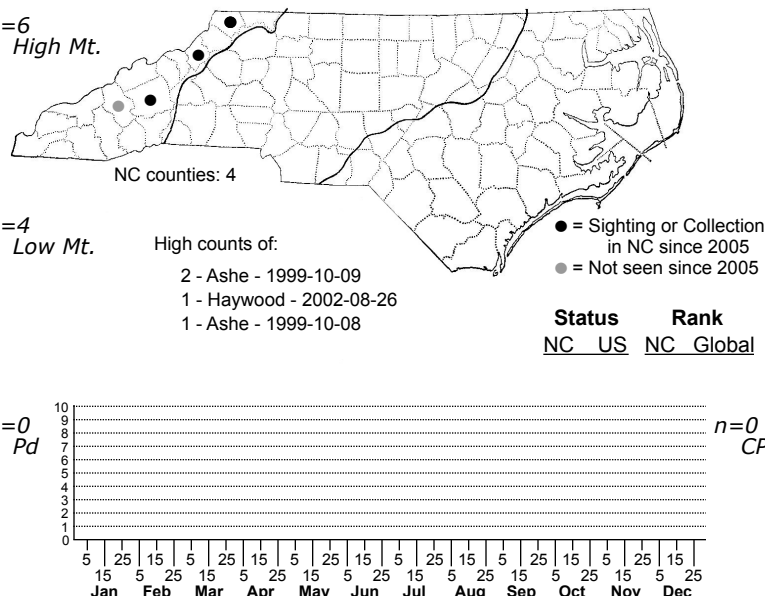
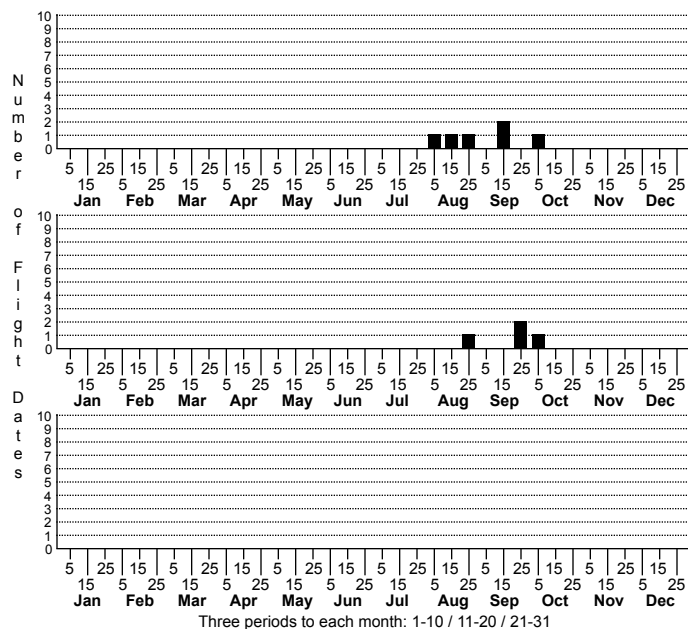


Papaipema rigida Rigid Sunflower Borer Moth



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)

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: We have records from both montane wet meadows and high elevation fields. Several records also come from cove forests and high elevation hardwoods.

FOOD: Larvae feed on composites, particularly sunflower (*Helianthus*) species, including Jerusalem Artichoke (*H. tuberosus*) and Paleleaf Sunflower (*H. strumosus*) (Robinson et al., 2010). Other composites that are reportedly used include sneezeweed (*Helenium*), Smooth Oxeye (*Heliopsis helianthoides*), and Common Golden-Alexanders (*Zizia aurea*) (Covell, 1984; Wagner et al., 2011).

OBSERVATION_METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G4 SNR [S1S3]

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

COMMENTS: