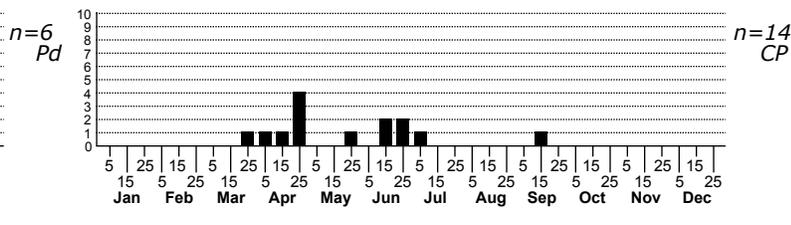
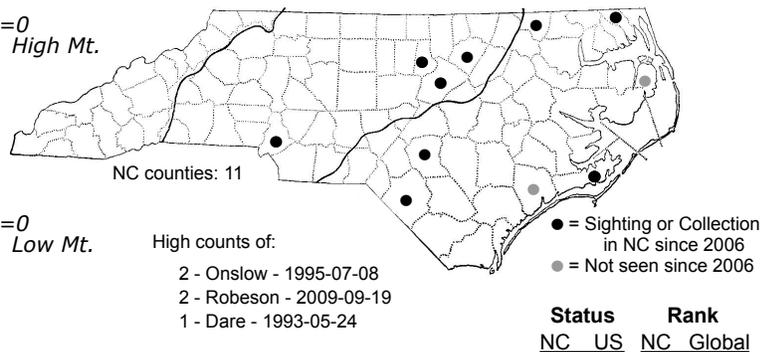
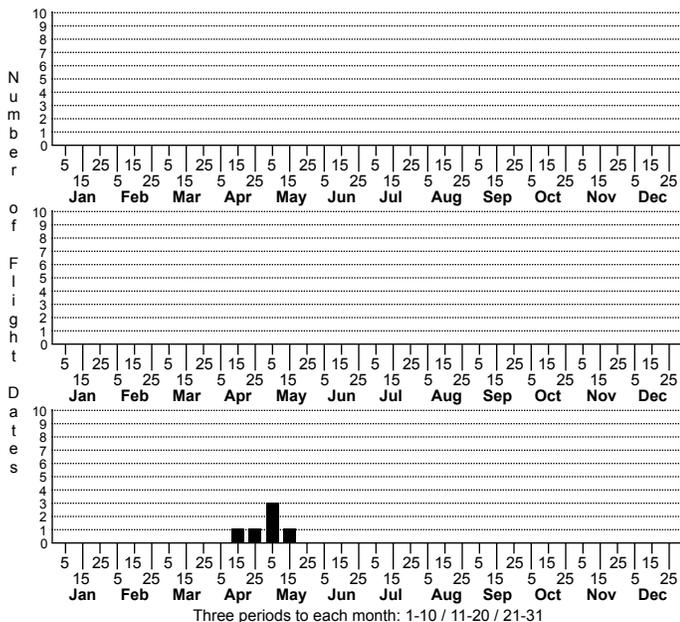


Bellura obliqua Cattail Borer Moth



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Noctuinae TRIBE: Arzamini
 TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The largest species in this complex; a wing length measurement is helpful in its identification. The ground color of the forewings is pale grayish wood brown, with a contrastingly paler basal area, a dark brown subterminal area, and an ashy, blue-gray terminal area (Forbes, 1954). The base is The antemedian is represented by the boundary between the pale basal and somewhat darker median area. The postmedian is single, fine, black, and regularly scalloped. The spots are outlined with fine brown, surrounding a pale ring with a brown center. The orbicular is a minute horizontal ellipse or absent. The reniform is a narrow oblique ellipse. Schmidt (MPG, accessed 07-21) states that in *B. obliqua* the angle is acute between the reniform and costa, whereas in *B. densa* the angle is close to 90 degrees. The hindwing is light fuscous with a dark discal shade, becoming darker towards the margin.

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: Cattail marshes

FOOD: Larvae feed on cattails (*Typha* spp.) (Forbes, 1954). Other reported hosts include American Lotus (*Nelumbo lutea*), Pickerelweed (*Pontederia cordata*), and water-lily (*Nymphaea*) (Covell, 1984; McCabe, 1991; Heppner, 2007). We do not have any feeding records in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION_METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S3S4]

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

COMMENTS: