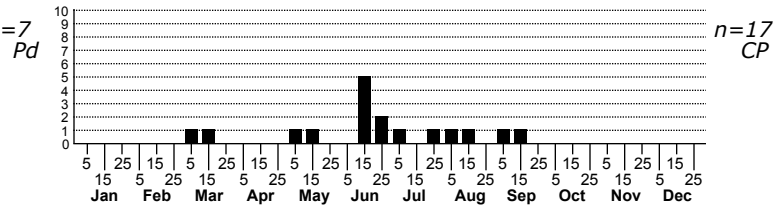
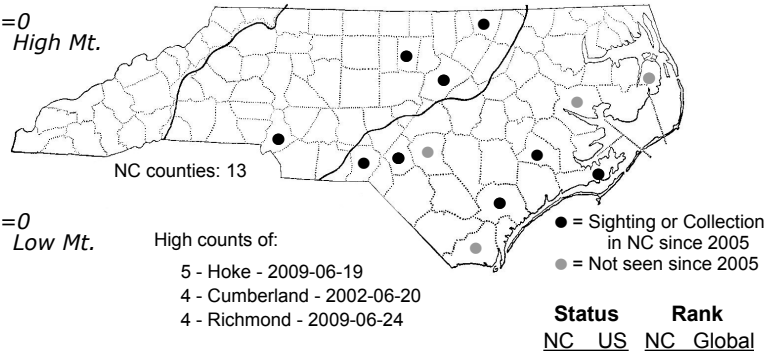
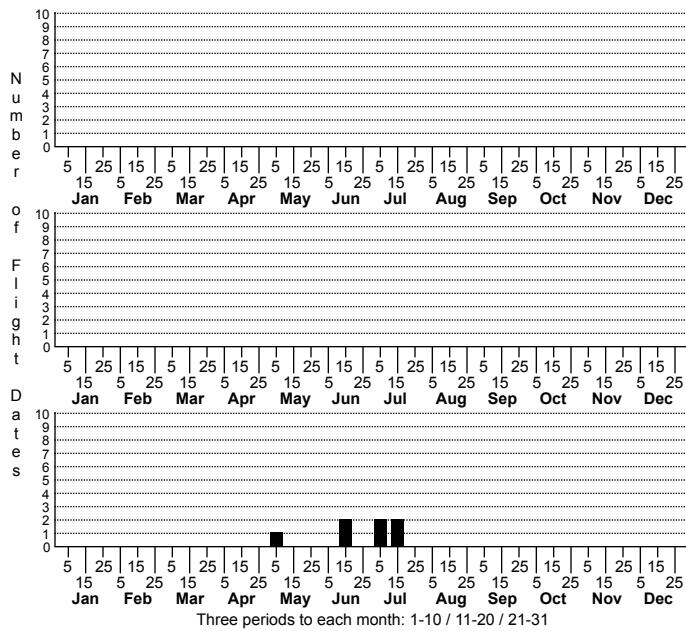


# *Bellura densa* Pickerelweed Borer Moth



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: A small member of this complex; a winglength measurement is helpful in its identification. The ground color of the forewing is light reddish mixed with darker reddish brown (Forbes, 1954). Schmidt (MPG, accessed 07-21) describes *Bellura densa* as having a darker purplish tint overall. The basal area is not paler than the lighter portions of the outer wing and often has a pinkish overshading. The orbicular and reniform spots are orange; the orbicular is larger than in *obliqua* and the reniform is thicker. According to Schmidt (MPG, accessed 07-21), the angle formed by the reniform and the costa is closer to 90 degrees in *densa* and more oblique in *obliqua*. The hindwing may have a reddish tint in this species rather than the fuscous found in *obliqua*.

DISTRIBUTION: Our records are all from the Coastal Plain and eastern Piedmont.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: Our records come from a variety of wetland habitats including peatlands, bottomlands, marshes, and savannas.

FOOD: Pickerelweed (*Pontederia cordata*) is the only known native host, but the larvae will also feed on Common Waterhyacinth (*Oshuna crassipes*), particularly when Pickerelweed is scarce (Center et al., 2002; Wagner et al., 2011). 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: