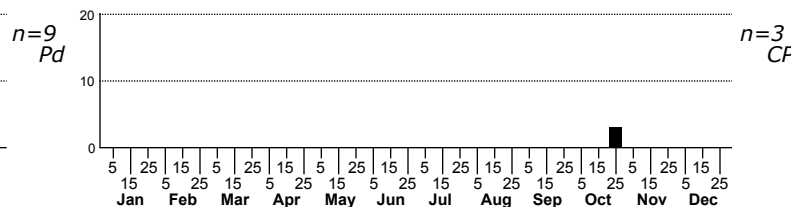
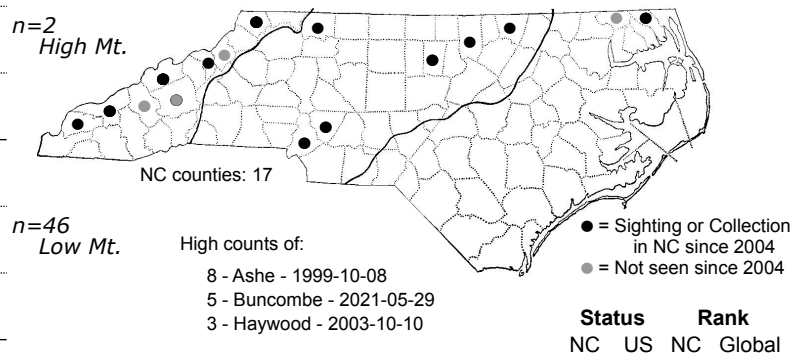
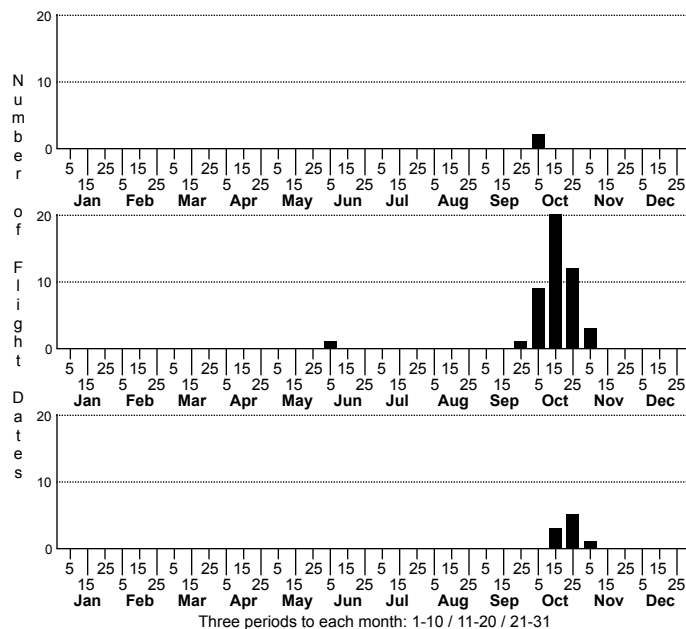


# *Papaipema cataphracta* Burdock Borer



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 straw yellow, heavily dusted with brown (Forbes, 1948). The basal and medial area are concolorous, with the basal area and that between the orbicular and reniform solidly brown. The spots are large and filled with the ground color. The antemedian runs in a broad sweep below the reniform rather than having a strong angulation. The postmedian is clearly double with the outer portion heavy and sharply bent opposite the cell. The subterminal area is fuscous gray with a violet tint. The terminal is solidly fuscous brown with a yellow spot at the apex.

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: Wagner et al. (2011) list the following as habitats used by this species: fields, waste lots, wetlands, grasslands, glades, and woodlands. The majority of our records come from wet-to-mesic habitats. In the Coastal Plain, records come from sites with extensive swamp forests and/or pond edges. In the Piedmont, most are from bottomlands, including beaver ponds, stream edges, and from at least one old field. In the Mountains, alluvial habitats and cove forests are prominent, with a few from high elevation sites, including primarily forested sites as well some that are partially open. None of our records come from dry sites and most are at least partially forested.

FOOD: Larvae are borers in a wide range of herbaceous species, including grasses and other monocot families, composites, and members of a number of other dicot families (Wagner et al., 2011). As of 2023, we have found larvae boring in the stems of Rattlesnake Master (<i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i>), Cutleaf Coneflower (<i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i>), Tall Goldenrod (<i>Solidago altissima</i>) and Wingstem (<i>Verbesina alternifolia</i>).

OBSERVATION\_METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 S3S4

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

COMMENTS: