

The flight periods of *Podosesia syringae* (Harris) and *Podosesia aureocincta* Purrington & Nielsen in Louisiana.

by

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ABSTRACT: Dates of capture for adult ***Podosesia syringae*** (Harris) and ***Podosesia aureocincta*** Purrington & Nielsen are graphically displayed. This data confirms a considerable overlap (48 days) in Louisiana, involving the flight period of these two species; an occurrence documented by Sharp & Eichlin (1979) in Florida.

The genus ***Podosesia*** Moschler, contains two known species whose larvae bore into various species of Ash (*Fraxinus* sp.). ***P. syringae*** larvae also bore into Lilac (*Syringa* sp.). Both species occur over much of the eastern United States and ***syringae*** occurs west to California (Eichlin & Duckworth, 1988). These authors also state the flight period of ***syringae*** is June-July in northern states, April-May in southern states, and December to July in south Florida. Regarding ***aureocincta***, these same authors state the flight period to be July to December.

Though not previously reported for Louisiana, ***P. syringae*** has been taken in ultraviolet light traps by this author; one or two specimens each year for more than 20 years. Many hundreds have also been taken in pheromone traps at Morehouse, St. Tammany, and St. John the Baptist Parishes, Louisiana. ***P. aureocincta*** also not previously reported for Louisiana has been taken for the past 15 years in considerable numbers using pheromone traps, and on rare occasions in ultraviolet light traps, at Natchitoches and St. Tammany Parishes, Louisiana.

In Louisiana, ***P. syringae*** appears to be single-brooded emerging primarily March-April with stragglers to mid-July Fig. 1. These findings duplicate that given by Solomon (1975) in west-central Mississippi in his six year rearing study. In Louisiana, ***P. aureocincta*** appears to emerge sporadically beginning the end of May and ending mid-November, the majority of specimens occurring August-September Fig. 2. In Louisiana, the flight period of these two species overlap at least 48 days, from the end of May to mid-July.

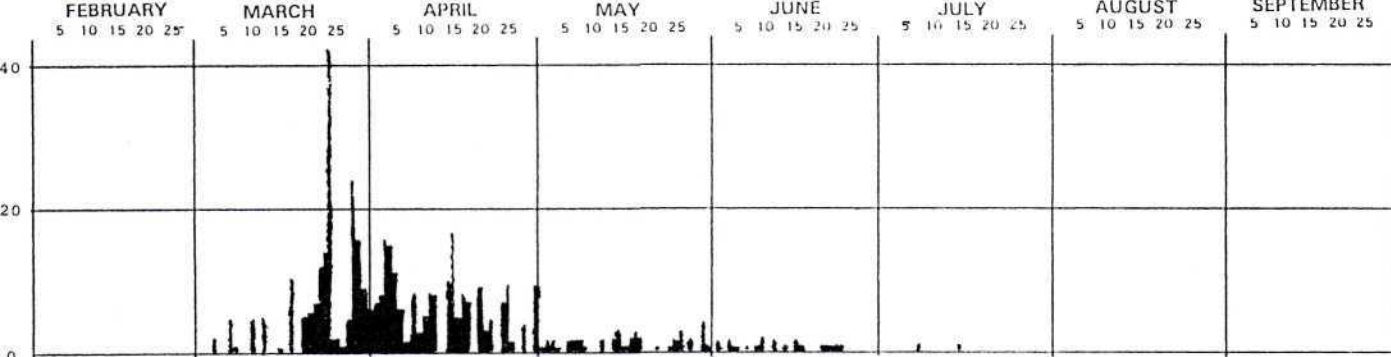


Fig. 1. Dates of capture for **Podosesia syringae** at 4.2 mi. NE Abita Springs, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana, (1990-96), n = 433.

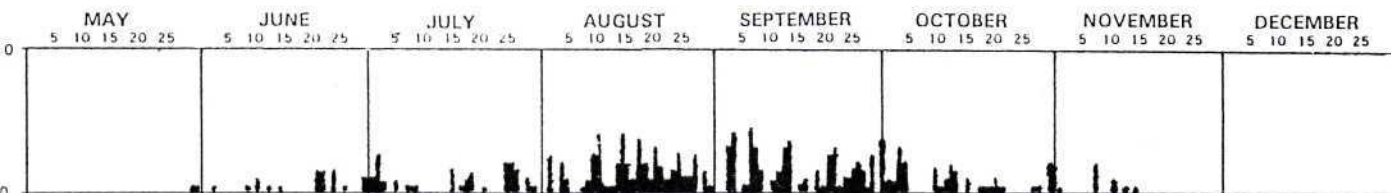


Fig. 2. Dates of capture for **Podosesia aureocincta** at 4.2 mi. NE Abita Springs, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana, (1990-96), n = 294.

Literature Cited

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