

Hemileuca maia (Drury) in Louisiana

by

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This well known black and white saturnid occurs over much of the eastern half of the United States. In Louisiana, *Hemileuca maia* (Drury) (Fig. 1) was first reported by von Reizenstein (1863) from New Orleans, where it still remains a topic of discussion each April and May when the live oak *Quercus virginiana* Mill. found throughout the city are found to have great numbers of *maia* caterpillars. Few residents of New Orleans actually know what the adults look like, but are well acquainted with the larvae which can occur in pest quantities. *H. maia* was recently reported by Ferguson (1971), mentioning a larvae collected from live oak in Orleans Parish. Most authors list this species as a day flier, and this is true, but the species can be quite common at ultra violet (uv) light traps (Fig.2). In southeast Louisiana, the single annual adult flight period peaks in early December (Fig.2), with specimens known from November into January. Location records are shown in Fig.3.

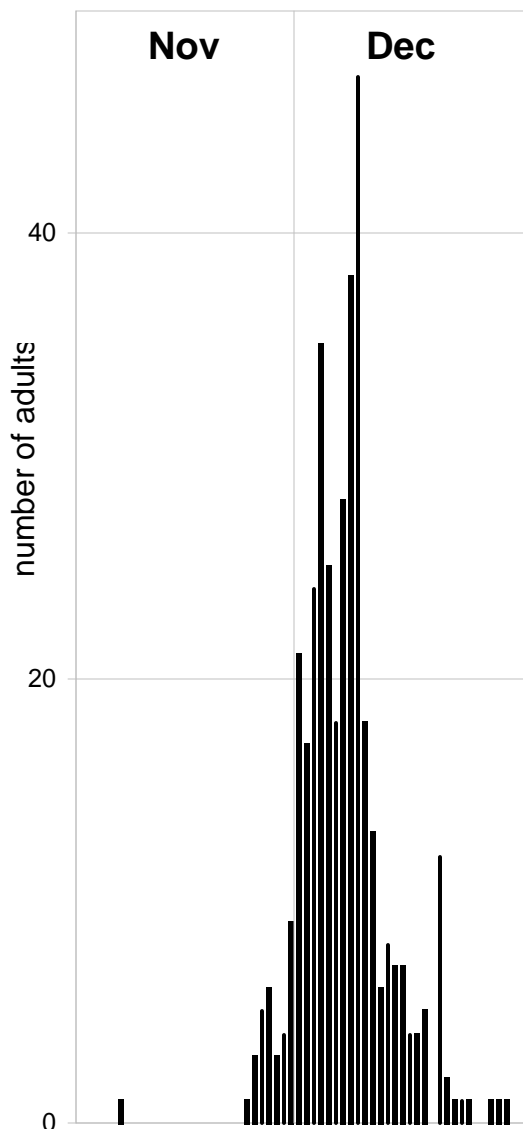


Fig. 2 *Hemileuca maia* (Drury) captured 1990-2000 at sec24T6SR12E, 4.2 mi. NE Abita Springs, St. Tamme Parish, Louisiana using uv light traps. n = 377

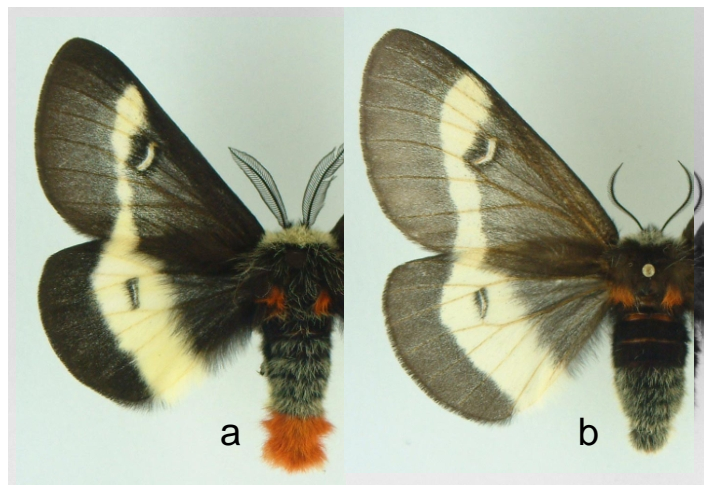


Fig. 1 *Hemileuca maia* (Drury): a. male, b. female.

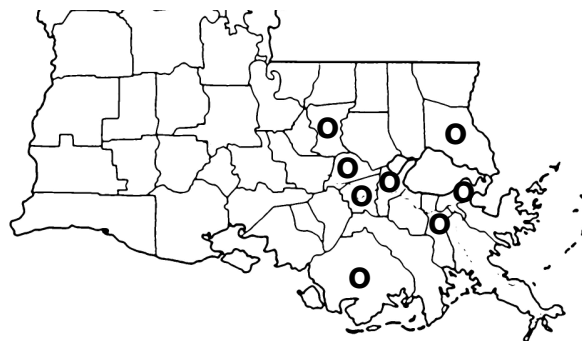


Fig. 3 Parish records of *Hemileuca maia* (Drury) (o) captured in Louisiana, based on this author's records.

Literature cited

- Ferguson, D. C.** 1971. The moths of America north of Mexico Fasc. 20.2A Saturnidae (Part) E.W. Classey Limited and R.B.D. Pub. Inc. 153 pp + 11
- von Reizenstein, L.** 1863. Catalogue of the Lepidoptera of New Orleans and its vicinity. Isacc T. Hinton, New Orleans. 8 pp.

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