Ascalapha odorata (L.) and Thysania zenobia (Cram.) in Louisiana

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The Black Witch, Ascalapha odorata (L.) (Fig. 1), and the Owl Moth, Thysania zenobia (Cram.) (Fig. 2) are occasionally encountered in Louisiana, usually as singletons. This author has collected about 25 adult specimens of odorata and three specimens of zenobia in 34 years of continual light trapping. In certain locations odorata is much more common e.g. in the cities of New Orleans and Baton Rouge, in which Cassia sp., a reported foodplant, are commonly planted as ornamentals. There are 5 specimens of odorata in the Louisiana State Arthropod Museum.

Fig. 1. Ascalapha odorata: a. male, b. female.

Fig. 2. Thysania zenobia: male.

Fig. 3. Parishes in which (a) Ascalapha odorata, (b) Thysania zenobia have been recorded.

The dates of capture for odorata are: February - March, and July - November, though most records are from September. The three records for zenobia are: July, September, and November.

A. odorata has been previously reported for Louisiana by Hine (1906), Jung (1950), and Chapin & Callahan (1967). Covell (1984) listed odorata as occurring from south Florida to South Texas in all months, and migrating north to Minnesota and New Foundland. Covell states zenobia occurs from Florida and Texas in all months, and straying rarely north to Ontario and Maine. Thanks to Victoria M. Bayless for records from the Louisiana State Arthropod Museum.

References


