

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

by  
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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.

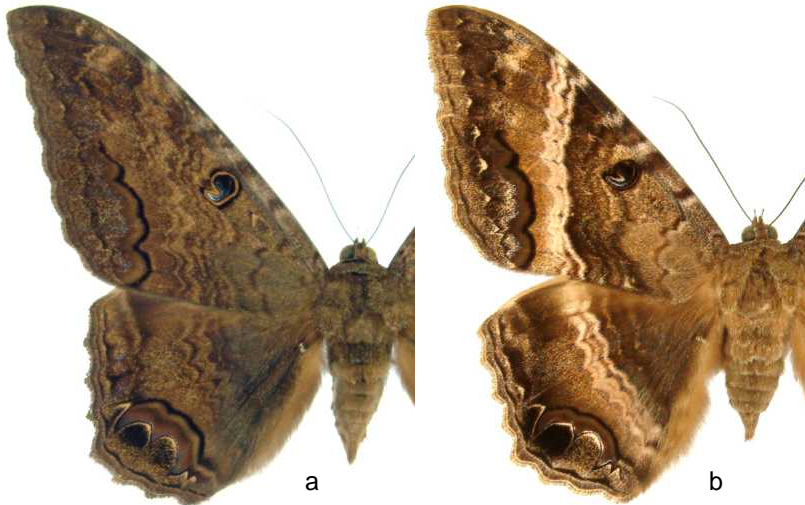


Fig. 1. *Ascalapha odorata*: a. male, b. female.



Fig. 2. *Thysania zenobia*: male.

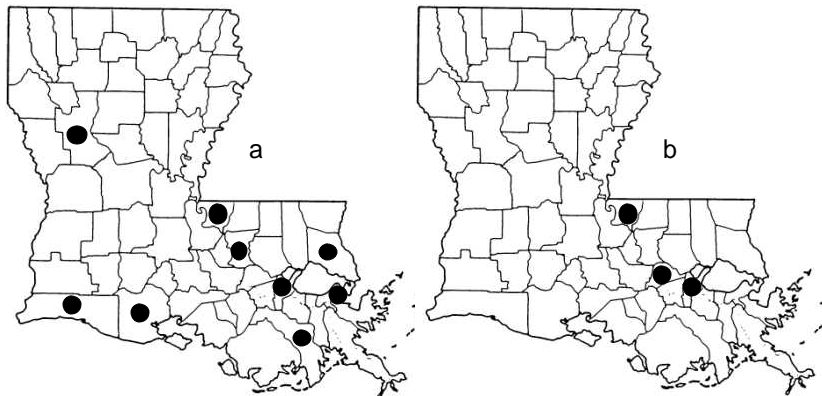


Fig. 3. Parishes in which (a) *Ascalapha odorata*,  
(b) *Thysania zenobia* have been recorded.

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

- Chapin, J.B. and Philip S. Callahan 1967. A list of the Noctuidae (Lepidoptera, Insecta) collected in the vicinity of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Proc. La. Acad. Sci. 30: 39-48.
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