The genus **Dargida** Walker, 1856 (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) in Louisiana

Vernon Antoine Brou Jr., 74320 Jack Loyd Road, Abita Springs, Louisiana 70420  email: vabrou@bellsouth.net

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**Fig 1.** *Dargida rubripennis*: a. male, b. female. *Dargida diffusa*: c. male.

The genera **Faronta** Smith, 1908 and **Strigania** Hampson, 1905 were synonymized under the genus *Dargida* Walker, 1856 by (Rodríguez and Angulo, 2005). In their revision, these authors listed 53 species of *Dargida*, creating fourteen new combinations and listing new records. In America, north of Mexico, eight species are assigned to the genus *Dargida*. I have taken only two species of the genus in Louisiana: *Dargida rubripennis* (Grote & Robinson, 1870) (Fig. 1a,b) and *Dargida diffusa* (Walker, 1856) (Fig. 1c.) Both species were previously reported for Louisiana, with adults captured during the month of September using ultraviolet light traps (Chapin and Callahan, 1967).

Within Louisiana, four adults of *diffusa* were captured on four separate occasions, once by Chapin and Callahan, and on three occasions (May and October) by this author. The type locality for *diffusa* is Nova Scotia, Canada. Covell listed the range for *diffusa* to include New Foundland to Virginia, west through Canada, south to Texas during the months of April through October in two to three broods.

Powell and Opler (2009) stated *diffusa* "wheat head armyworm" ranges through much of temperate North America, Northwest Territories and British Columbia eastward across Canada to Newfoundland and most of the United States, except for the southeast. These authors stated *diffusa* flies March to October in two to three broods.

*D. rubripennis* is the more abundantly captured species of *Dargida* within Louisiana, adults flying in one annual brood peaking third week of September (Fig. 2). The type locality for *rubripennis* is Texas, USA.

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**Fig 2.** Adult *D. rubripennis* captured at sec.24T6SR12E, 4.2 mi. NE of Abita Springs, Louisiana. n = 212

**Fig 3.** Parish records for *D. rubripennis* and *D. diffusa* by this author.
Covell (1984), listed the range of *rubripennis* to include Massachusetts and Ontario to Florida, west to Minnesota and Texas for the months August to September.

Heppner (2003) listed two species of *Dargida* for the state of Florida: *D. rubripennis* and *Dargida quadrannulata* (Morrison). The type locality for *quadrannulata* is USA: Nebraska, Glencoe, Dodge Co.

The parish records for both species discussed are illustrated in Fig. 3.

**Literature cited**


