A Gulf Coast Record of the European Cutworm, *Noctua pronuba* (L.)

by

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The "Large Yellow Underwing" *Noctua pronuba* (L.) is a well known cutworm from England and Europe. In North America, it was reported from Halifax, Nova Scotia, first captured in 1979 and again September 1, 1981, 289 km to the east on Sable Island (Wright, 1983). Wright also stated the species appears to have subsequently spread westward, northward, and to the southwest in Nova Scotia. This species was not listed by Hodges (1993) in the checklist.

This author captured a female specimen of *pronuba* on September 15, 1996 at sec.24T6SR12E, 4.2 mi. NE of Abita Springs, Louisiana. Without careful examination, this specimen would have been discarded, because its colorful hindwings were not exposed as it sat among thousands of other moths in an ultraviolet light trap collection chamber. It looked quite like a huge specimen of the commonly collected cutworm pest *Peridroma saucia* (Hbn.) which has various colors and maculation on the forewings. Recent correspondence with Barry Wright confirmed the specimen is *N. pronuba*, form *innuba* Treitschke, the darkest of the four principal color forms. He further stated *N. pronuba* is now firmly established in Eastern Canada and the North-eastern United States. This specimen has dark brown forewings, yellow-orange hindwings with a black band along outer margin from apex to anal angle.

**Literature cited**
