Macrurocampa marthesia (Cram.) in Louisiana

by

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Fig. 1. Macrurocampa marthesia a. male, b. female.

Fig. 2. Parish records by this author.

Fig. 3. Macrurocampa marthesia captured at sec.24T6SR12E, 4.2 mi. NE Abita Springs, Louisiana. n = 887

The large notodontid moth Macrurocampa marthesia (Cram.) (Fig. 1.) described in 1779 is listed to be common throughout eastern North America occurring April through September (Covell 1984). Packard (1895) indicated marthesia occurs from Maine to Florida and Texas, south to Mexico, Surinam and Brazil. The forewing coloration of live and fresh specimens can exhibit a pastel bluish or greenish overall suffusion. The hindwing is mousy-gray with a slightly darker narrow band from basal area to anal angle. This species is quite common in Louisiana wherever oaks (Quercus sp.) are abundant. Fig. 2 illustrates the Louisiana parish records by this author. In Louisiana, marthesia is on the wing continuously from March to October (Fig. 3), with at least three broods occurring. Wagner et. al (1997) reported marthesia has two broods.

Literature cited

