**Pyrrhia aurantiago** (Guenée, 1852) (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) in Louisiana

by

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The not often encountered Heliotine moth **Pyrrhia aurantiago** (Guenée) (Fig.1) was recently addressed by Schweitzer, et.al., (2011) as having a spotty distribution over a large portion of the eastern United States and southern Ontario. These authors specifically mention records of this 'uncommon to rarely captured' species from: Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

The current series of captured adult *aurantiago* in Louisiana was taken over the past 43 years of continuous nightly ultraviolet light trapping and most records are from the *Abita Springs* Study site.

Until recently, this species was known as *Rhodocia aurantiago* (Guenée). Covell (1984) indicates the flight period in northern states to be July to September and in Florida, August to October. Heppner (2003) also states the flight period in Florida to include the months August to October. In Louisiana, *aurantiago* has a single brood occurring during September and October, peaking the last week of September (Fig.2). The parish records are illustrated in Fig. 3.

*Abita Springs Entomological Study site: sec. 24, T6S, R12E, 4.2 miles northeast of Abita Springs, Louisiana.*

Literature cited


Schweitzer, D.F., M.C. Minno, and D.L. Wagner, 2011. Rare, declining, and poorly known butterflies and moths (Lepidoptera) of forests and woodlands in the eastern United States. USDA Forest Service, Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team.