

Ceratomyx satanaria in Louisiana

by

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The uncommon geometrid moth *Ceratomyx satanaria* Guenee (Fig. 1) was reviewed by Rindge (1975) in a revision of the genus. Rindge's 12 species investigation covered three species in the United States, two

southwest species and *satanaria* occurring from South Carolina to Georgia and Northern Florida, Mississippi and Texas. Rindge's limited study series of 29 specimens indicated a single brood flight period February-March. Rindge stated "This is one of the rarer species of moths found in our southeastern states".

In Louisiana, *satanaria* has a single late winter brood flight peaking late February (Fig.2).



Fig. 1. *Ceratomyx satanaria*: a. male, b. female.

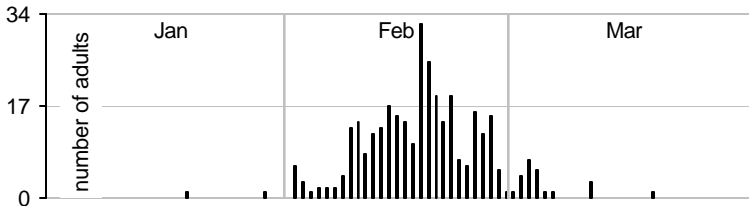


Fig. 2. *Ceratomyx satanaria* captured at sec.24T6SR12E, 4.2 mi.NE Abita Springs, Louisiana. n = 332

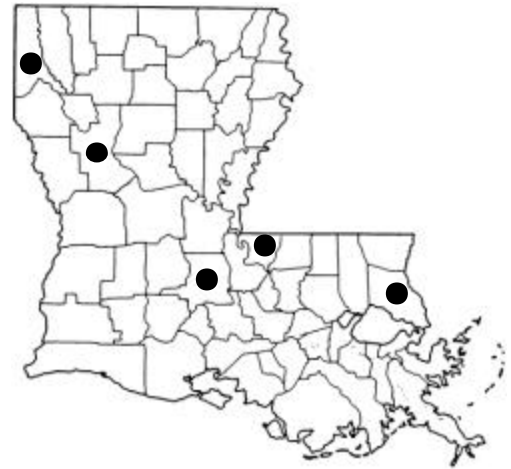


Fig. 3. Parish records by this author.

I have captured *satanaria* in five parishes across the state (Fig.3). Interestingly, of more than 400 Louisiana specimens captured using ultraviolet light, only two are females. Female *satanaria* have forewings and hindwings more elongated than in males and the median line of the female forewing differs significantly from the male's in arising from the inner margin, distally approaching the apex to a distance about two-thirds the distance between inner margin to costal margin, then acutely changing direction basally as it approaches the costal margin.

Literature cited

Rindge, Frederick H. 1975. A Revision of the Moth Genus *Ceratomyx* (Lepidoptera, Geometridae), American Museum Novitates, Am. Mus. Nat. Hist. No. 2564, 30 pp.