



**Natural Heritage  
& Endangered Species  
Program**

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*Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife*

**Pink Sallow Moth  
*Psectraglaea carnosa***

State Status: **Special Concern**  
Federal Status: **None**

**DESCRIPTION:** The Pink Sallow Moth (*Psectraglaea carnosa*) is a noctuid moth with a wingspan of 38-45 mm (Forbes 1954). The forewing is bright, reddish-pink; a variable amount of gray shading may be present from the median area to the inner margin. A faint yellow subterminal line is present, and the reniform and orbicular spots are faintly outlined in yellow. The hind wings are light tan in color, shaded with pink. The head and thorax are concolorous with the reddish-pink of the forewings, and the abdomen is light tan shaded with pink, similar in color to the hind wings.

**HABITAT:** The Pink Sallow Moth is found in a variety of habitats with ericaceous vegetation, including pitch-pine scrub oak barrens and heathlands on sandplains or rocky summits and ridges, acidic bogs and swamps, and occasionally logged areas, old fields, or utility line rights-of-way.

**LIFE HISTORY:** Adult Pink Sallow Moths fly in late September and October. Eggs overwinter, hatching in the spring. Larvae feed on lowbush blueberries (*Vaccinium angustifolium* and *V. pallidum*) and possibly other *Vaccinium* species from spring through early summer, pupating by July and diapausing until the fall.



*Psectraglaea carnosa* ▪ Specimen from MA: Plymouth Co., Plymouth, collected 2 Oct 2002 by M.W. Nelson

**Adult Flight Period in Massachusetts**

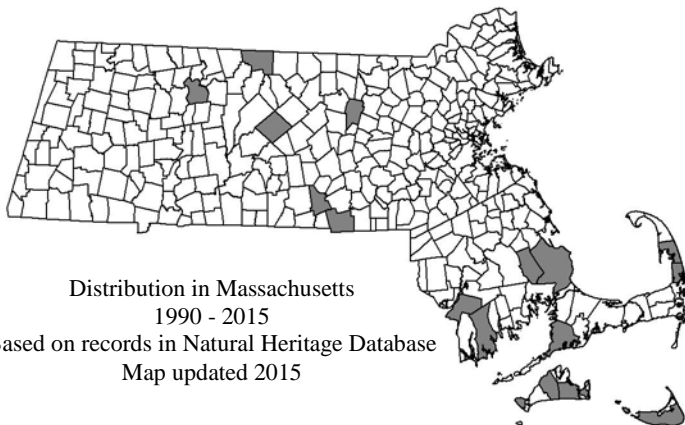
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

**GEOGRAPHIC RANGE:** The Pink Sallow Moth is endemic to northeastern North America, ranging from Maine south to Maryland, and west to Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Wisconsin; it is rare and spottily distributed throughout this range (Schweitzer et al. 2011). In Massachusetts, this species occurs on the southeast coastal plain, as well as in Worcester and Franklin Counties.

**STATUS AND THREATS:** The Pink Sallow Moth is threatened by habitat loss and fire suppression. Other potential threats include introduced generalist parasitoids, aerial insecticide spraying, non-target herbiciding, off-road vehicles, and light pollution.

**REFERENCES:**

Forbes, W.T.M. 1954. *Lepidoptera of New York and Neighboring States*. Part III. Memoir 329, Cornell



**A Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the Massachusetts State Wildlife Action Plan**

**Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife**

1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581; tel: 508-389-6300; fax: 508-389-7890; [www.mass.gov/dfw](http://www.mass.gov/dfw)

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University Agricultural Experiment Station, Ithaca, New York. 433 pp.

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*. Forest Service, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Washington, DC. 517 pp.

*Updated 2020*

*Authored by M.W. Nelson, NHESP Invertebrate Zoologist, March 2015*

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