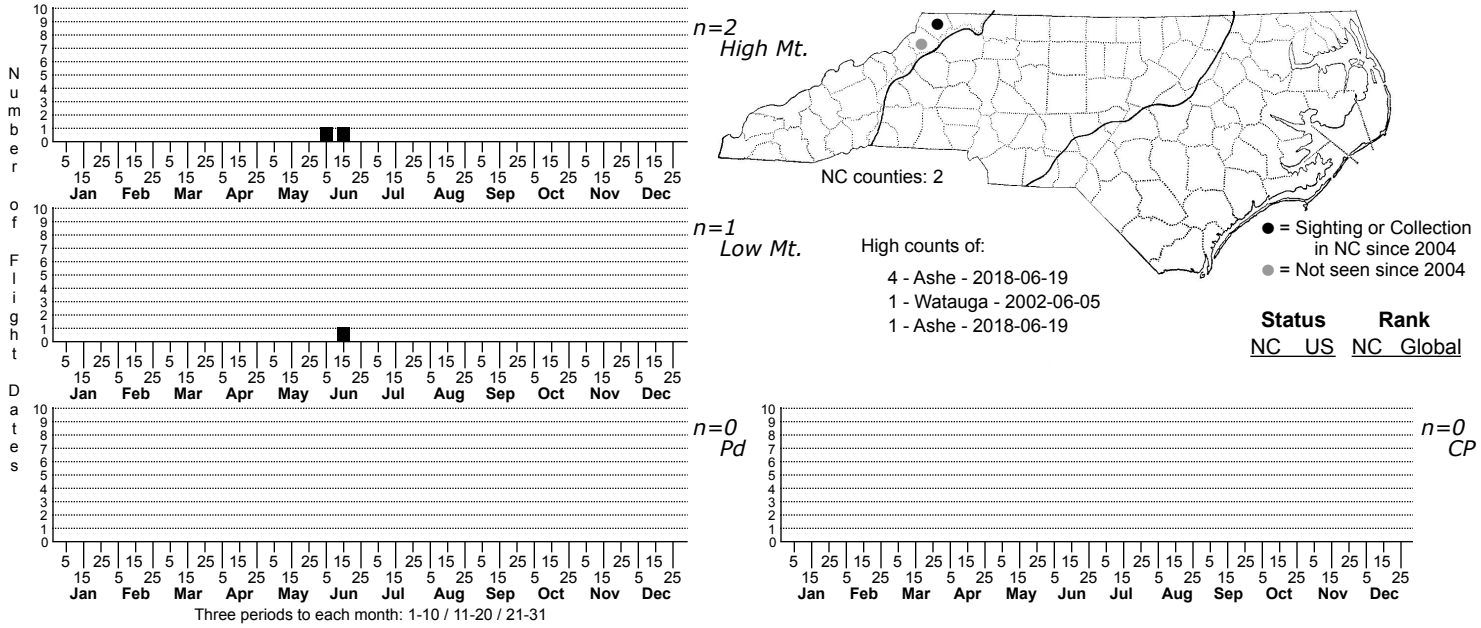
Lacanobia grandis Grand Arches Moth



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Noctuinae TRIBE: Hadenini
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: One of five species in this genus that occur in North America north of Mexico (Lafontaine and Schmidt, 2010), two of which have been recorded in North Carolina

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984); Beadle and Leckie (2012)
ONLINE PHOTOS:
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1954); McCabe (1980)
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Wagner et al. (2011)

ID COMMENTS: A medium-sized, red, brown, and gray Noctuid. The ground color of the forewings is reddish brown; the transverse lines, orbicular, and reniform are all grayish to whitish, with the spots somewhat darker inside. A strong basal black dash and a black median dash in the fold between the antemedian and postmedian lines are distinctive, together with the broad, pale gray subterminal band; the outer edge of this band is bounded by a white line with a well-defined w-mark between veins M3 and Cu1. Lacanobia subjuncta has similar basal and median dashes but lacks the pale subterminal band; Spirameter lutra has a similar subterminal band but lacks the median dash (McCabe, 1980)

DISTRIBUTION: North Carolina records come from the northern mountains

FLIGHT COMMENT: Univoltine, with adults flying in June and July in North Carolina

HABITAT: According to McCabe (1980), grandis is "a species of the Transitional and Canadian Life Zones". All of our records come from sites above 4,500 ft in elevation, one from a high elevation forest and one from a mountain bog.

FOOD: Polyphagous on many families of woody plants, including alder, blueberry, chery, dogwood, poplar, and willow (Wagner et al., 2011). Also recorded on Burdock.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: Comes to lights

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S1S2

STATE PROTECTION: Has no legal protection, although permits are required to collect it on state parks and other public lands.

COMMENTS: This species is common in the North (Wagner et al., 2011), but it appears to be strongly disjunct in our area and possibly confined to high elevation summits; we have records from only two sites in this state. Although apparently not a host-plant specialist, the range of plants used in North Carolina is unknown. If confined to cool, moist, high elevation habitats in North Carolina, it is likely to be vulnerable to the effects of global warming. Although more needs to be learned about its distribution within the state, we recommend that it be listed as Significantly Rare in North Carolina.