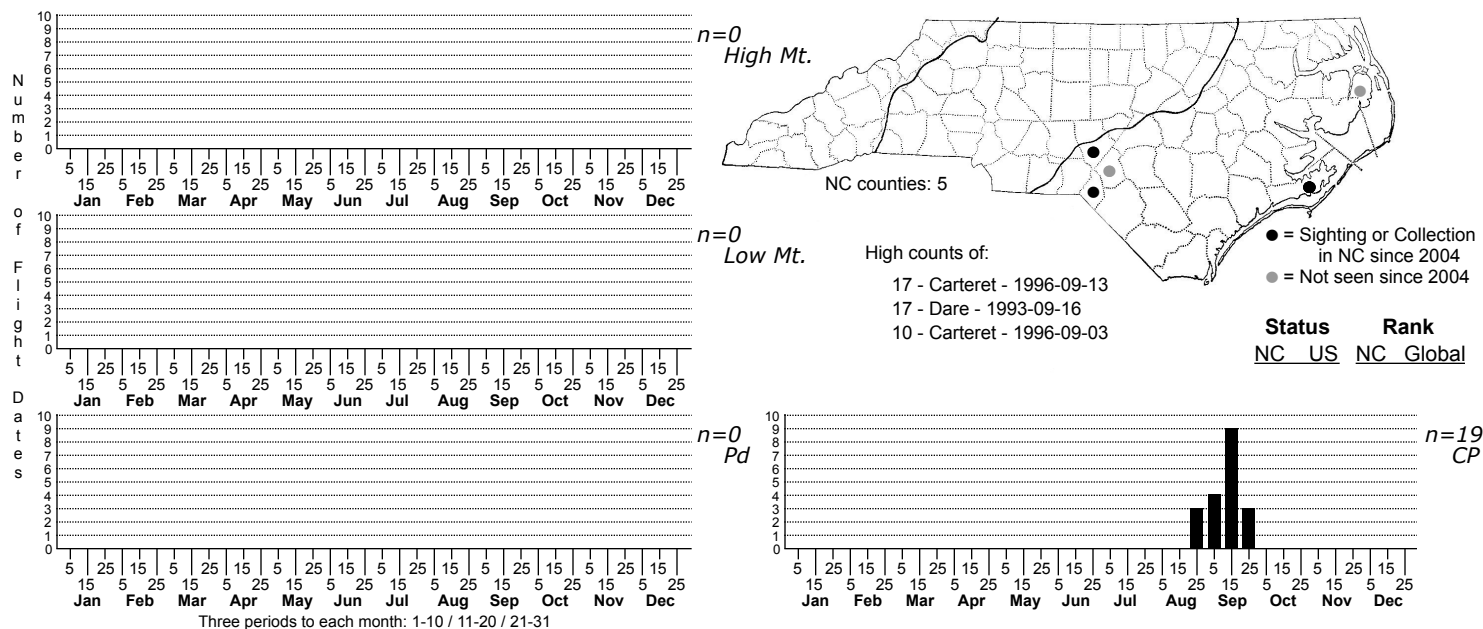


## *Dargida rubripennis* Pink Streak Moth



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Noctuinae TRIBE: Hadenini

TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS: This is a large New World genus which recently has included the species formerly placed in *Faronta*. Three species occur in North Carolina. While primarily a genus of high altitude species in the West, Central and South America, our species occur at sea level with some penetrating the mountains.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984; as *Faronta rubripennis*); Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1954)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Wagner et al. (2011)

ID COMMENTS: This lovely species is unlikely to be confused with any other species in our fauna. In freshly emerged specimens, the forewing is streaked horizontally with pink and yellow-gold.

DISTRIBUTION: All of our records are from the Coastal Plain. Although there are reports of records from the mountains, we have not vetted those records nor seen the localities from which they originate.

FLIGHT COMMENT: A single brood has been observed flying for about a month beginning near the end of August.

HABITAT: Our records all come from open grassy sites with sandy substrates, including both maritime dunes and interior sandhills. If its primary host plant is *Panicum virgatum*, then both wet swales and drier sites are probably used.

FOOD: Known to feed on *Panicum virgatum* in New Jersey (Wagner et al, 2011). *Panicum* is common in dune habitats and perhaps the caterpillars are attacking the seeds. Other grasses may also be used.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: Adults come well to blacklights but their response to bait or flowers is unknown.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G3G4 S2S3

STATE PROTECTION: Listed as Significantly Rare by the Natural Heritage Program. That designation, however, does not confer any legal protection, although permits are required to collect it on state parks and other public lands.

COMMENTS: Generally considered rare or local throughout its range (Forbes, 1954; Wagner et al., 2011). In North Carolina, we relatively few records, all from just three locations. While it is probably secure in the Fall-line Sandhills, the beach dunes where the largest populations occur are likely to be drastically affected by sea level rise.