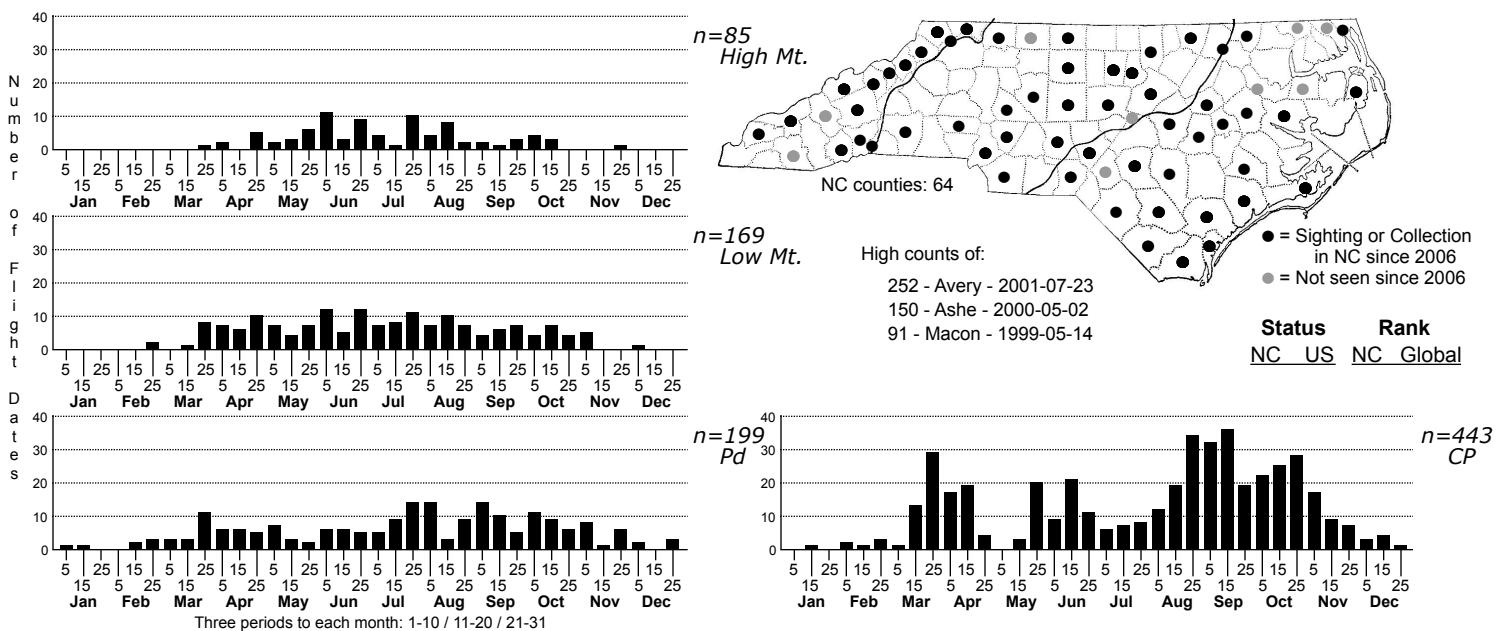


# *Mythimna unipuncta* Armyworm Moth



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Noctuinae TRIBE: Leucaniini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: A member of a very large worldwide genus. Four species 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; as *< i>Pseudaleitia unipuncta< /i>*); Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: A medium-sized Noctuid whose somewhat elongated forewings have a somewhat pointed apex marked with a oblique apical dash. The ground color is generally brown and dusted with fuscous (Forbes, 1954), but may reddish-brown in some specimens or particularly along the coast, may be a pale off-white. Transverse lines are absent except for a series of dark dots (obsolete in some specimens) that precede the apical dash. These dots curve towards the costa from the dash but run in a straight line from the dash to the inner margin. Both an orbicular and reniform spot may be present, filled with paler brown and often with a darker center. Both spots may be obsolete, however. More typically present is a white dot located on the median vein, similar to that of Leucania species. The vein may be blackish before and after this point. In Leucania species with similar markings and ground color, the apical dash is missing and the hindwings are pale whitish or pure white instead of the fuscous gray found in unipuncta.

DISTRIBUTION: This species is found from the high mountains to the barrier islands, although in some areas it may occur primarily as a migrant or overwintering species

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: Wagner et al. (2011) list lawns, gardens, field, wet meadows, and other grassy habitats. This species is highly migratory, and adults can be found virtually anywhere.

FOOD: Larvae feed mainly on grasses but also consume forbs and woody plants; many crop species are attacked, including wheat, corn, oats, and rye (Wagner et al., 2011). We do not have any feeding records in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S5]

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

COMMENTS: This is a major crop pest across much of the world and is in no need of conservation efforts.