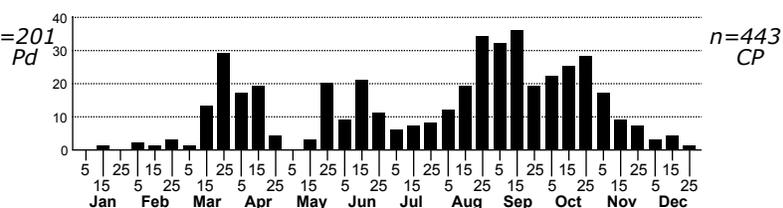
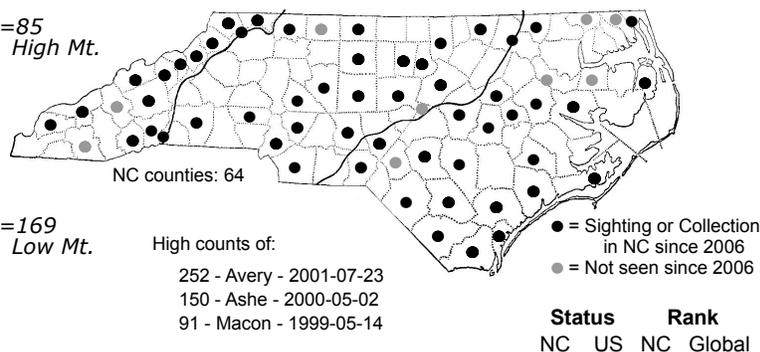
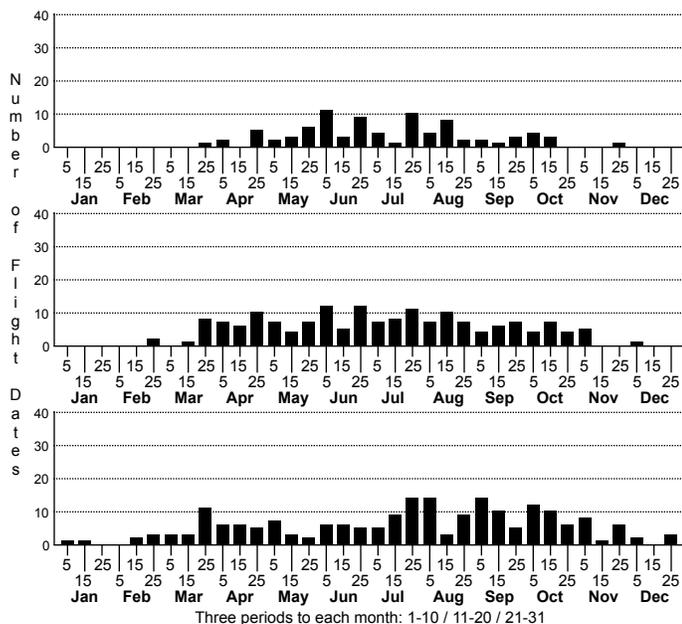


Mythimna unipuncta Armyworm Moth



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 *Pseudaletia unipuncta*); 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.