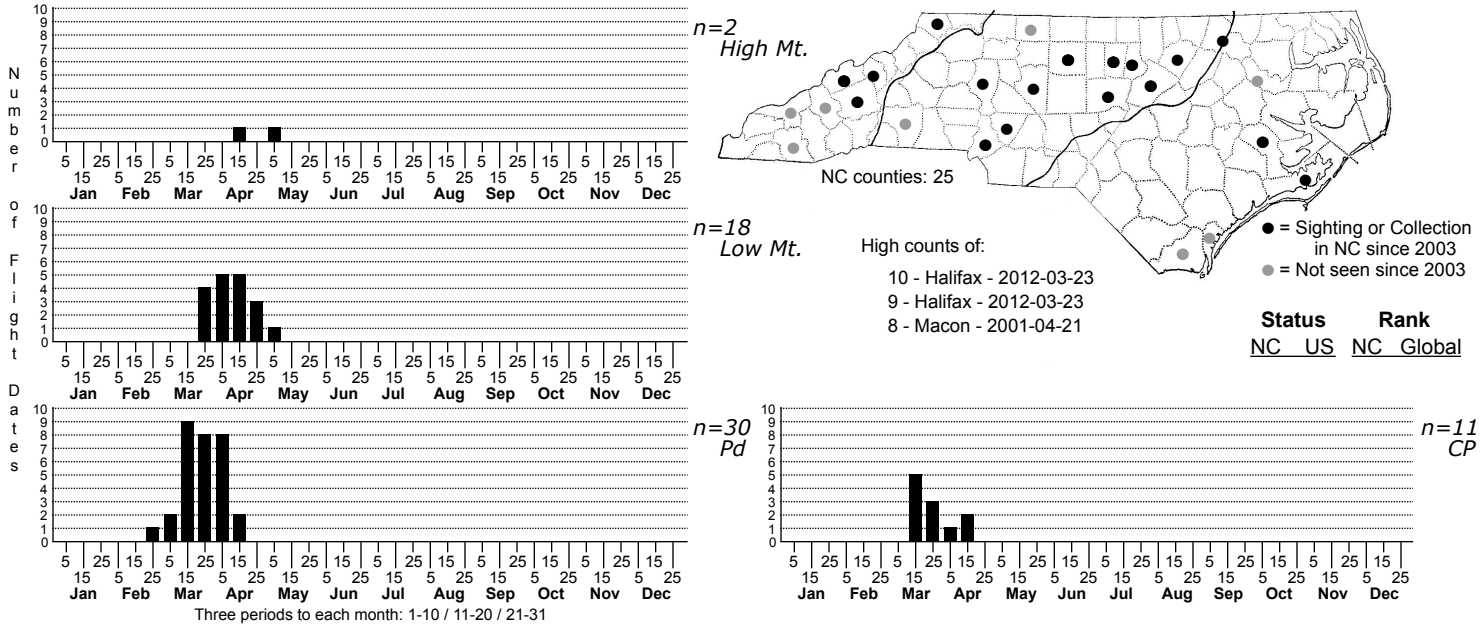
Kocakina fidelis Intractable Quaker Moth



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Noctuinae TRIBE: Orthosiini
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: A single species genus restricted to eastern North America and found across North Carolina.

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

ID COMMENTS: A medium sized, brown, spring-flying moth, this species is readily identified by the series of black dots (usually 3) in the fold of the forewing. Once placed in Orthodes (Forbes, 1954), as were a host of other species now placed elsewhere, the exact relationship of this genus is uncertain but it appears to be closer to some species of Orthosia.

DISTRIBUTION: Probably occurs throughout the Mountains and Piedmont but may be confined to brownwater river floodplains in the Coastal Plain.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Univoltine, flying primarily in March and April

HABITAT: All of our records come from hardwood-dominated forests; no records come from Longleaf Pine, Peatland, or Maritime Forests, all of which have been extensively sampled in North Carolina. Both bottomland and upland stands of hardwoods are used, including in some semi-wooded residential neighborhoods.

FOOD: Polyphagous on a wide variety of woody plants. Observed feeding on beech, but the other food plants used in our state are unknown.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: Adults come to light but the infrequency may be due to weak attraction. Wagner et al (2011) indicate adults do not come to bait but can be found at spring flowers.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S4S5]

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

COMMENTS: Although we have relatively few records for this species, that is most likely due to its early spring flight. It feeds on a wide range of common host plants and has been found in a variety of forest habitat types. While more spring surveys are needed to confirm its distribution and abundance, it currently appears to be secure within the state.