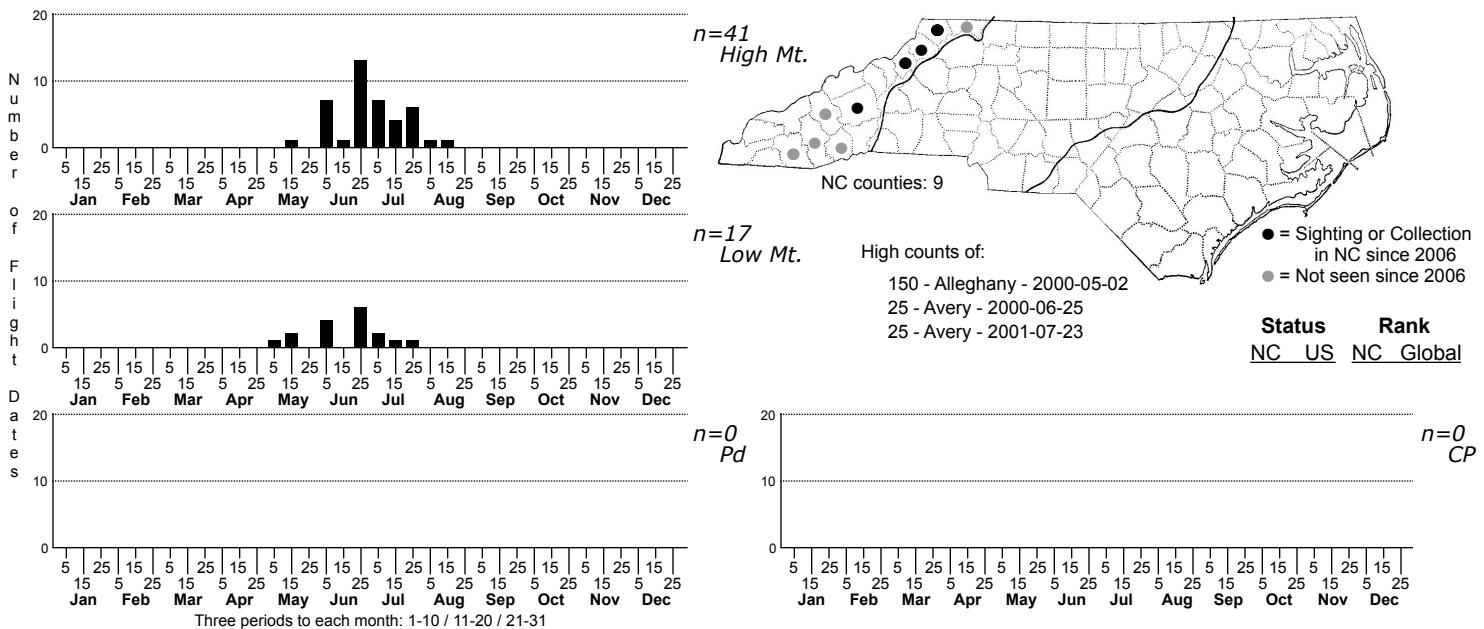


## *Homorthodes furfurata* Northern Scurfy Quaker



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Noctuinae TRIBE: Eriopygini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: Like the North American genus *Protorthodes*, *Homorthodes* has some 15 named species, mostly from the southwestern United States but with two occurring in North Carolina.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984); Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1954)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Neil (1983)

ID COMMENTS: A medium-sized brownish moth often with a distinct black curved line through the median area of the forewing. Likely to be confused with *Pseudorthodes vecors* (the form lacking a white reniform), *Orthodes cynica*, and *Protorthodes oviduca*. *H. furfurata* lacks traces of reddish coloring and is usually smaller than the other species. Sexes are similar.

DISTRIBUTION: Restricted to the Mountains in North Carolina.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Apparently single brooded in the middle of the summer but the flight period is rather broad.

HABITAT: Our records come from both open areas and upland hardwoods, often where artificial openings are present, such as overlooks, picnic areas, and visitor centers.

FOOD: What this species actually feed on in the wild is unknown but Crumb (1956) recorded maple and Indian Plum as foodplants, along with dead leaves. However, larvae reared by Neil (1983) rejected both those species and cherry and fed -- albeit slowly - only on dandelion. All of these records were obtained from larvae produced by enclosing a female for eggs.

OBSERVATION METHODS: Adults come to light but we have no information regarding their attraction to bait or flowers.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S3S4]

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

COMMENTS: This species appears to occur throughout the Mountains, at both high and relatively low elevations. It also makes use of a broad range of habitats, including some disturbed sites. It therefore seems relatively secure in the state.