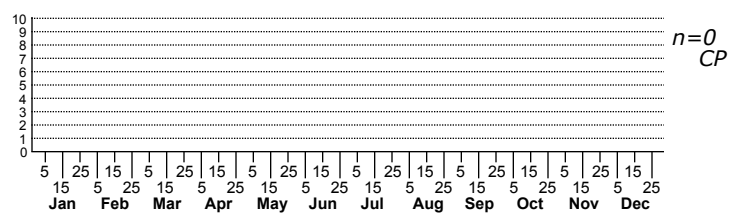
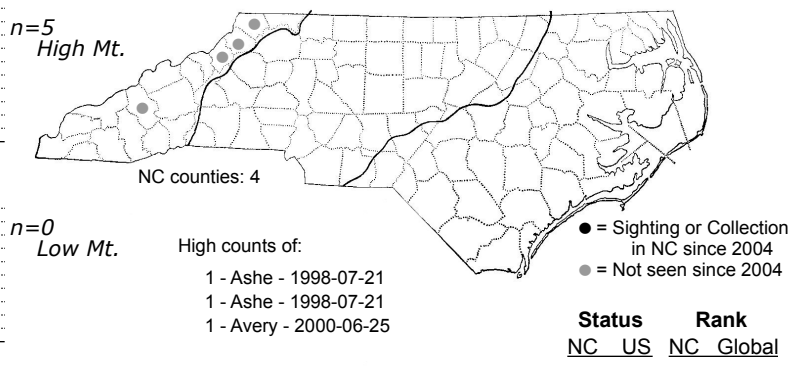
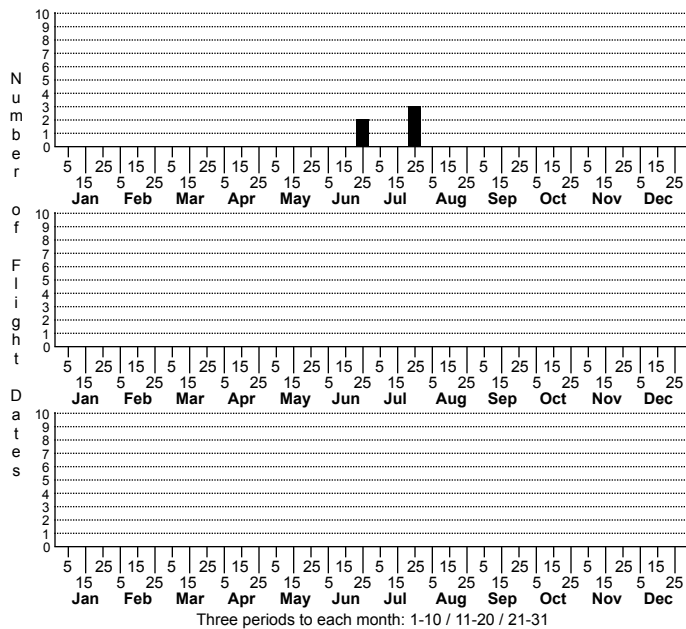


Euxoa declarata Clear Dart Moth



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Noctuinae TRIBE: Noctuini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of 181 species in this genus that occur in North America (Lafontaine and Schmidt, 2010), the majority of which are found in the West and North; only thirteen species have been recorded in North Carolina. *Euxoa declarata* belongs to the Declarata Species Group in Subgenus *Euxoa* (Lafontaine, 1987), which contains three species in addition to *declarata*; *E. campestris* is the only other member of this group that occurs in North Carolina.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1954); Lafontaine (1987)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Forbes (1954)

ID COMMENTS: A medium-sized Noctuid. The form that occurs in North Carolina has a violet-brown ground color, with black basal, antemedian, and postmedian lines. The spots are also outlined in black; the reniform and orbicular are both large, with the area in between them and before the orbicular shaded with black. The claviform is also usually present and outlined, but not filled, with black. The hindwings are either pale fuscous, or whitish with a fuscous shade along the margins and the veins (Forbes, 1954; Lafontaine, 1987). *Euxoa campestris* is similar in size and pattern, but usually has darker fuscous hindwings and darker forewings (Lafontaine, 1987). Dissection, however, may be needed to confirm the identities of these two species.

DISTRIBUTION: Restricted to the High Mountains

FLIGHT COMMENT: Univoltine, flying in June and July

HABITAT: All of our records come from high elevation forests, including stands of Spruce and Northern Hardwoods. Moisture regimes range from mesic to fairly dry.

FOOD: Larval host plants appear to be unknown (Lafontaine, 1987), but like most species of *Euxoa*, probably include a wide range of low-growing plants (Wagner et al., 2011).

OBSERVATION_METHODS: Comes in low numbers to blacklights. At least some members of this genus visit flowers (e.g., *E. detera*, Wagner et al., 2011).

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G4G5 S2?

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: This species, along with a few others in this genus, appear to be Pleistocene relicts in North Carolina, found mainly far to the north or in montane areas in the West but occurring disjunctly at high elevations in our mountains. Records for this species are otherwise unknown south of New England and northern New York. Although more needs to be learned about their host plants, specific habitat associations, and abundance in our area, *declarata* is likely to be at high risk due to global climate change and does not appear to be secure from extirpation from its last remaining sites south of the New England.