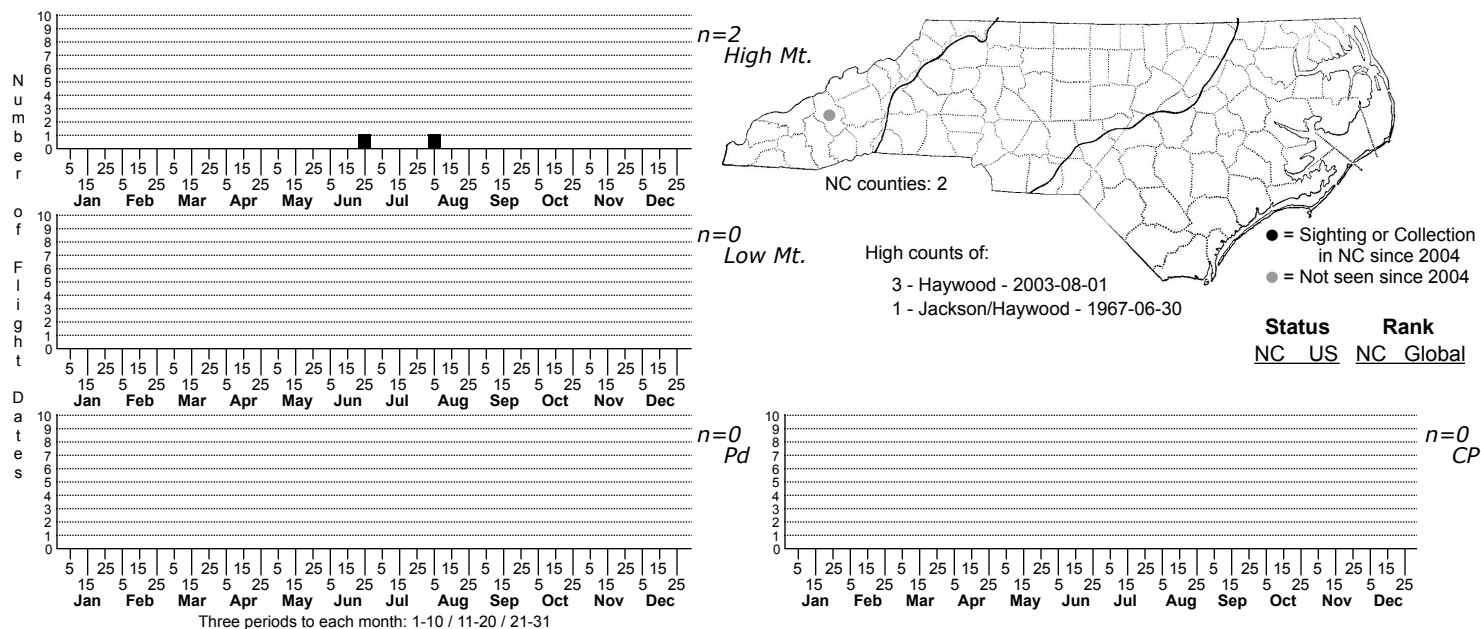


## *Euxoa campestris* Flat Dart



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 campestris* belongs to the Declarata Species Group in Subgenus *Euxoa* (Lafontaine, 1987), which contains three species in addition to *campestris*; *E. declarata* is the only other member of this group that occurs in North Carolina.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Lafontaine (1987)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: A medium-sized Noctuid. The form that occurs in North Carolina has a dark, blackish-brown ground color, with reddish-brown shading in the basal and terminal areas. The antemedian, and postmedian lines are black and 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 pale fuscous (Lafontaine, 1987). *Euxoa declarata* is slightly larger and similar in pattern, but usually has paler hindwings and lighter brown forewings (Lafontaine, 1987). Dissection, however, may be needed to confirm the identities of these two species.

DISTRIBUTION: Currently recorded only from two high elevation sites in the southern half of the Mountains.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Univoltine, with adults captured in June and August

HABITAT: Both of our records come from high elevation forests, including stands of Spruce-Fir Forests and Northern Hardwoods

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. detersa*, Wagner et al., 2011).

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S1S2

STATE PROTECTION: Has no 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. In addition to the population in North Carolina, Lafontaine (1987) mentions an isolated population in eastern Kentucky; records are otherwise unknown in the East south of northern New England and Canada. Although more needs to be learned about their host plants, specific habitat associations, and abundance in our area, these species are likely to be at high risk due to global climate change and do not appear to be secure from extirpation from their last remaining sites south of New England.