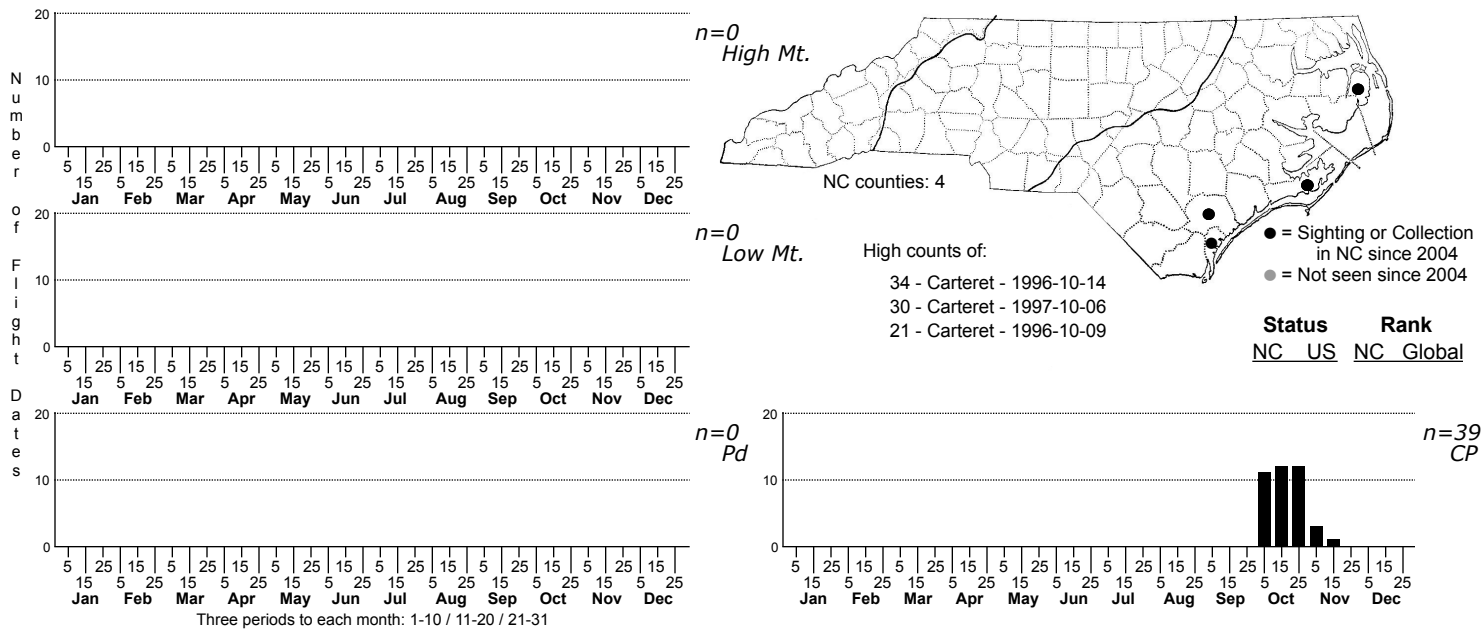


## *Euxoa detersa* Rubbed Dart Moth



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Noctuinae TRIBE: Noctuini

TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS: One of 181 species that occur in North America north of Mexico (Lafontaine and Schmidt, 2010). Most are Western but 13 have been recorded in North Carolina. *Detersa* belongs to the *Detersa* Species Group of Subgenus *Euxoa*, a large group also represented by *redimicula* in North Carolina (Lafontaine, 1987).

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1954, as *Agrotis detersa*); Lafontaine (1987)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Forbes (1954); Lafontaine (1987); Wagner et al. (2011)

ID COMMENTS: A medium-sized, light brown and gray Dart (dark brown individuals are described from other areas but have not been seen here). The head, thorax, and costa of the forewing are usually gray or brownish gray. The antemedian line is pale and wavy; the postmedian is dentate. Forbes (1954) describes the spots as small, but they are conspicuous in our specimens, including the claviform, all of which are filled with pale gray/brown; the area between the orbicular and reniform is darker brown and the spots are partially bordered with dark brown in some specimens. The subterminal line is more diffuse but also pale, contrasting with the darker terminal area, which is often darker gray in our specimens. Veins C1 and M3 are typically pale colored, crossing into the gray terminal area. A series of dark terminal dots are present, followed by a pale fringe. The hindwings are dirty white at the base, shading to fuscous terminally (Forbes, 1954).

DISTRIBUTION: All records that we have confirmed come from Barrier Islands

FLIGHT COMMENT: Univoltine, with adults flying primarily in October

HABITAT: This species appears to be strongly confined to sandy soils; all of our records come from dunes on barrier islands or from adjoining areas of maritime forest

FOOD: Larvae are polyphagous, feeding on grasses as well as forbs, including crop species grown on sandy soils (Robinson et al., 2010; Wagner et al., 2011). Among the species likely to be used on the barrier islands, where our records come from, are *Cakile edentula*, *Salsola kali*, and *Spartina patens*.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: Appears to come well to lights

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S2S4

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

COMMENTS: We have records for this species from relatively few areas, all with natural dune vegetation. It can be locally abundant within these habitats and elsewhere it is not confined to barrier islands and can even be a significant crop pest. More information is needed on its populations in North Carolina to determine whether it is more widespread than our current records indicate, or that it can adapt to the kind of changes in habitat associated with coastal development or with sea level rise.