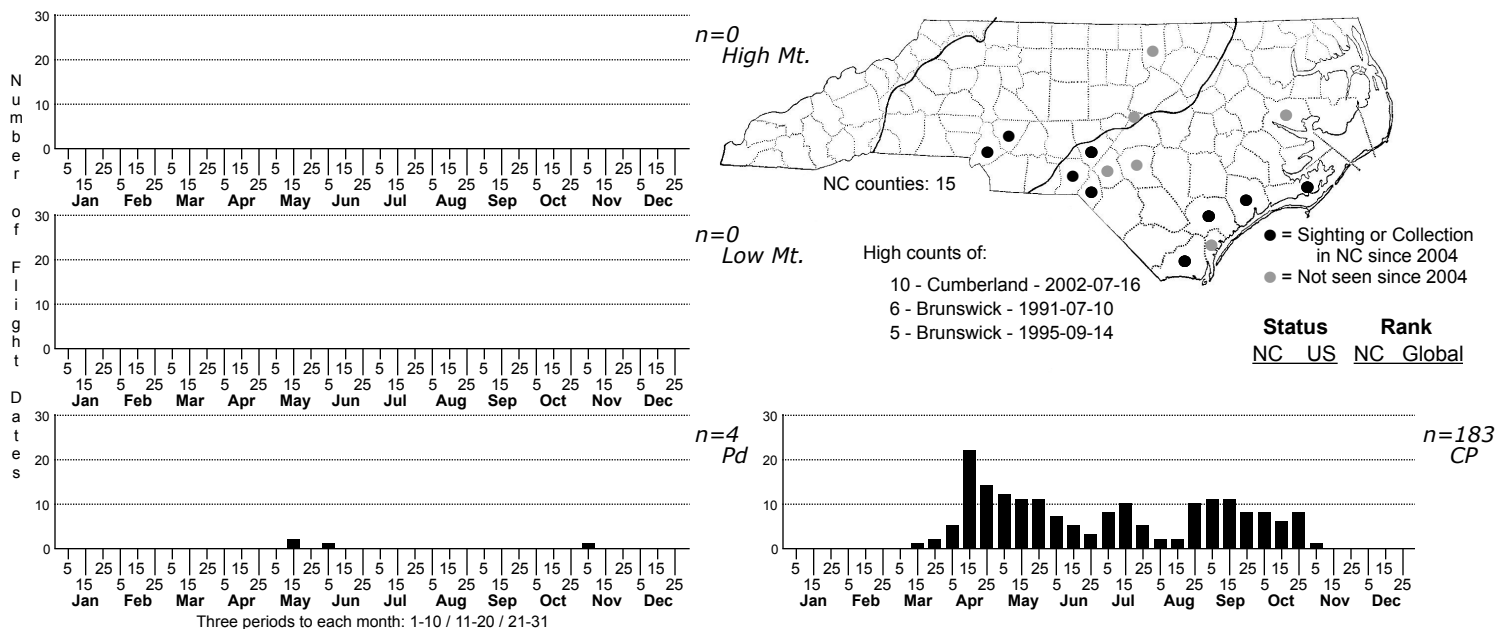


## *Anicla lubricans* Slippery Dart



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Noctuinae TRIBE: Noctuini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of fifteen species in this genus that occur in North American north of Mexico (Lafontaine and Schmidt), six of which have been recorded in North Carolina

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984; as *Euagrotis lubricans*); Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Lafontaine (2004)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: A medium-sized, reddish-to grayish Noctuid. The head, collar, thorax, and the basal third of the forewings are generally light- to medium-gray; the median and submedian areas of the forewing are usually shaded with reddish; a subapical dark patch may exist on the costa and the terminal area is also often dark. The prothoracic collar lacks or has only a thin, black transverse band, and the transverse lines on the forewings are often thin and discontinuous, usually most strongly marked at the costa. Hindwings are fuscous in both sexes (Lafontaine, 2004). *Anicla sullivanii* is similar in size, color, and markings, but usually has a well-defined dark band on the collar. Many individuals of these two species cannot be distinguished based on external features and must be dissected to determine their identity. Other members of this genus may have reddish-gray forewings but have much paler or glistening white hindwings.

DISTRIBUTION: Most of our records come from the southern half of the Coastal Plain, including the Fall-line Sandhills. Specimens from other parts of the state need to be re-examined to determine their identity.

FLIGHT COMMENT: This species appears to fly during most of the growing season, with peaks in the spring and late summer/fall.

HABITAT: Uncertain, given the confusion of records for *lubricans* and *sullivanii*, but this species appears to be most frequent in Longleaf Pine habitats, including wet savannas as well as dry sandhills.

FOOD: The host plants for this species are unknown (Lafontaine, 2004), but most members of this genus feed on grasses, as well as on forbs in some cases (Wagner et al., 2011).

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: Comes well to lights and has also been observed at bait.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G4G5 [S3S4]

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

COMMENTS: In North Carolina, this species appears to be a fairly strong specialist on Longleaf Pine habitats but the overall picture is clouded due to past confusion with *Anicla sullivanii*. A clearer picture of the distribution, abundance, and habitat associations needs to be based on more definitely identified specimens and currently an accurate assessment of its conservation status cannot be made.