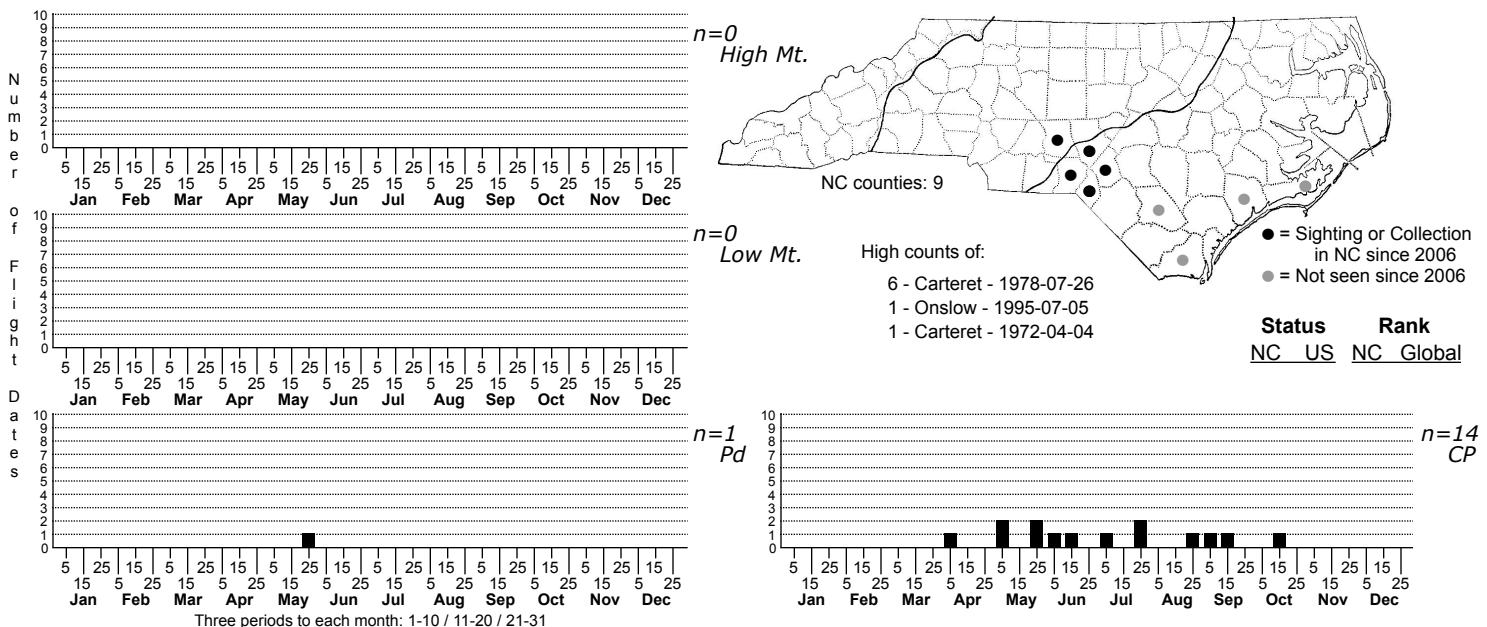


Anicla sullivanii Sullivan's Dart



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:

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 has a prominent black transverse band and the transverse lines on the forewings are usually strongly marked at the costa, becoming thinner but still traceable towards the posterior half of the wing. Hindwings are fuscous in both sexes (Lafontaine, 2004). *Anicla lubricans* is similar in size, color, and markings, but usually has a weakly-defined dark band on the collar, if any at all. 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: All of our records come from the southern half of the Coastal Plain, including the Fall-line Sandhills.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Lafontaine (2004) indicates that there may be fairly distinct spring and fall flights. However, we have records from most of the growing season, but with too few to determine whether there are distinct flights or peaks.

HABITAT: Most of our records come from Longleaf Pine savannas and flatwoods. *A. sullivanii* appears to occupy somewhat wetter habitats than *lubricans* but there appears to be at least some overlap in their habitat choices.

FOOD: Host plants appear to be unknown.

OBSERVATION METHODS: Comes to lights

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G3G4 SU [S2S3]

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 specialist on wet 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.