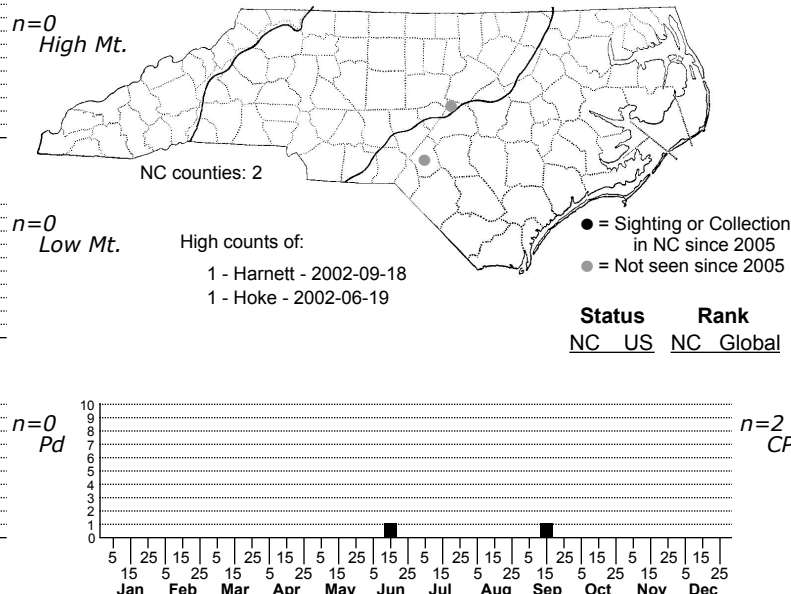


Anicla simplicius Simple Dart



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, pale grayish-brown Dart. The head, thorax, and forewing ground color are a fairly uniform grayish-brown. The collar lacks a transverse band and the antemedian, postmedian, and other transverse lines on the forewing are also usually absent. Three dark longitudinal streaks or spots are present in the center of the wing, representing the orbicular, claviform, and reniform spots (Lafontaine, 2004). Hindwings are whitish with a pale fuscous shade along the costa. Some forms of *Euagrotis illapsa* are similar in size and color but possess well-marked transverse lines on the collar and forewings.

DISTRIBUTION: Both of our specimens were collected in the Fall-line Sandhills subregion of the Coastal Plain

FLIGHT COMMENT: Lafontaine (2004) states that there are several broods per year. Our records come from June and September.

HABITAT: Both of our records come from wetlands embedded within extensive areas of dry Longleaf Pine-dominated sandhills

FOOD: Host plants appear to be unknown.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: Comes to lights, but to what extent is unknown

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G4 SU [S1]

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

COMMENTS: We have just two records for this species, from a region of the Fall-line Sandhills that has been subject to extensive Lepidopteran surveys. More information is needed about its host plant and habitat associations but currently this species appears to be very rare in North Carolina.