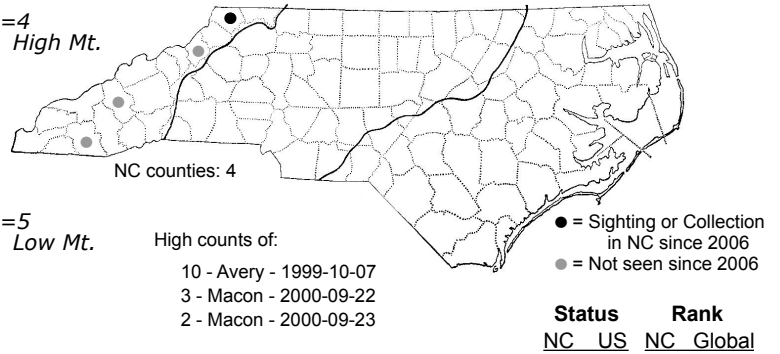
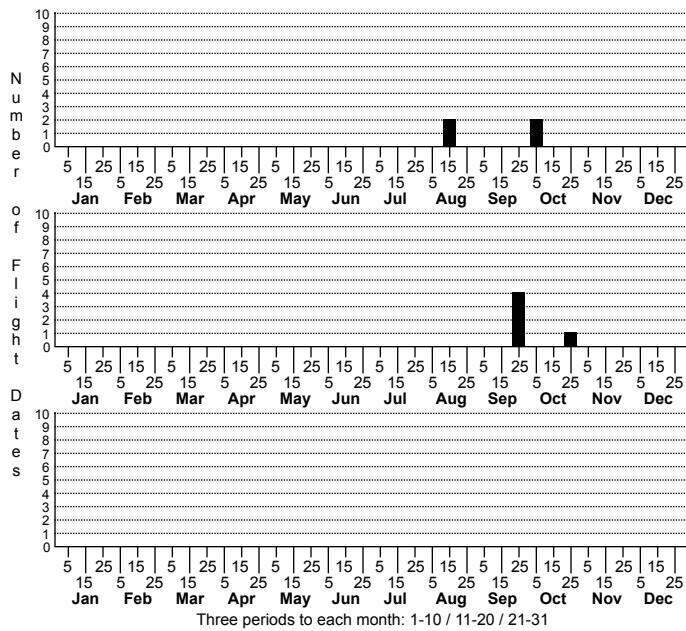
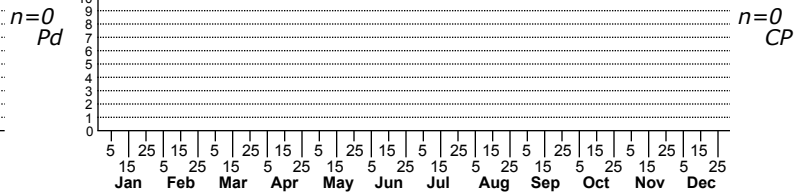


Xestia badicollis Northern Variable Dart



Status Rank
NC US NC Global



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Noctuinae TRIBE: Noctuini
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Beadle and Leckie (2012)
ONLINE PHOTOS:
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Lafontaine (1998)
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: This northern species is similar in appearance to *Xestia elimata* but is smaller and has a more mottled, frosty appearance (Lafontaine, 1998). *Xestia praevia* is more similar in both size and markings but has a darker gray ground color or is flushed with reddish brown; it also flies in the summer rather than the fall and winter. For specimens observed in late fall, wing length measurements provide the most reliable way of distinguishing this species from the much more common *X. elimata*.

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT:

FOOD: Larvae feed on conifers, including fir (*Abies*), larch (*Larix*), spruce (*Picea*), White Pine (*Pinus strobus*) and other pines, and hemlock (*Tsuga*) (Wagner, 2005). According to Lafontaine (1998), White Pine is its main host plant.

OBSERVATION_METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S1S2]

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

COMMENTS: