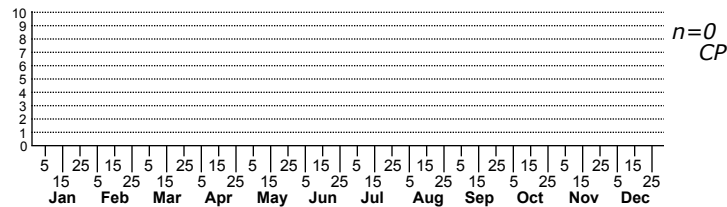
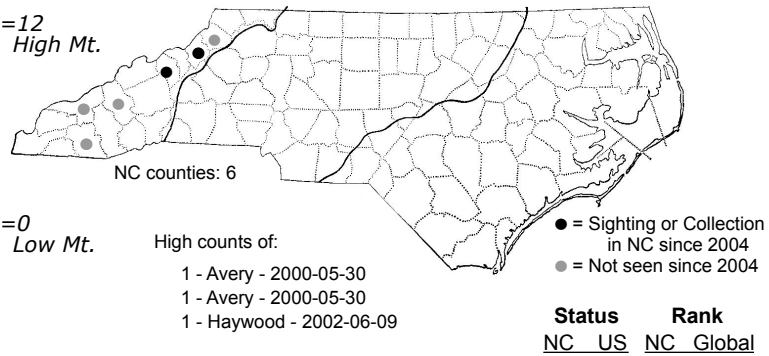
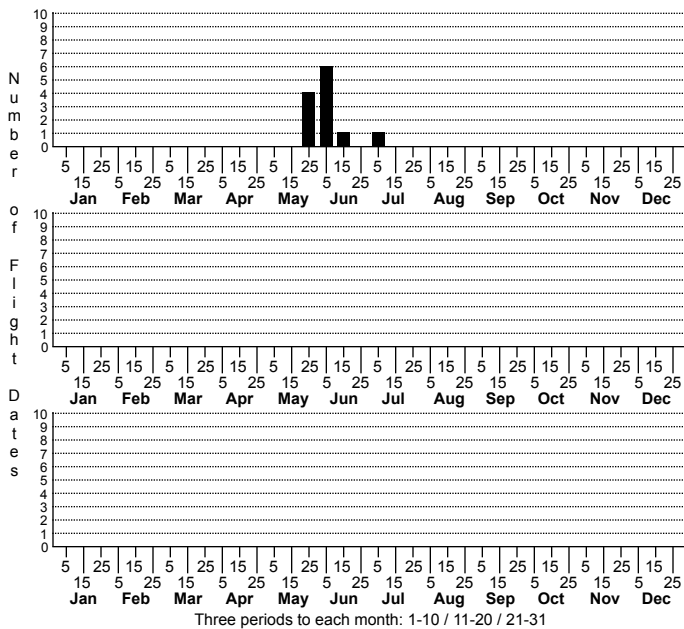


*Aplectoides condita* No common name



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Noctuinae TRIBE: Noctuini  
 TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS: A North American genus with a single species.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: (Not in either field guide)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1954), as *Noctua condita*

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: McCabe (1988)

ID COMMENTS: Adults are large and very mottled, with whitish reniform and orbicular spots (usually but sometimes concolorous) and reddish scaling between the subterminal and postmedial lines. Sexes are similar.

DISTRIBUTION: Our records are all above 4000' and it should be looked for throughout the higher mountains.

FLIGHT COMMENT: It is on the wing from late May through June and early July at the highest elevations, which match conditions of much earlier dates at lower elevations.

HABITAT: Our records come solely from High Mountain (>4,000') habitats, in association with Northern Hardwood Forests, Spruce-fir Forests, or rock outcrop communities.

FOOD: McCabe (1988) reared larvae from a wild-caught female on Larch (*Larix laricina*), a species that does not occur naturally in North Carolina. To a lesser extent, the larvae also fed on Balsam Fir (*Abies balsamea*), which is closely related to the Fraser Fir (*A. fraseri*) of the Southern Appalachians. However, we have records from northern hardwood and rock outcrop communities in Macon County where fir is absent, suggesting that some other high elevation plant species is used. It seems likely that the species does not feed on evergreens but is a general feeder on low herbaceous plants and woody shrubs. Robinson et al. (2010) list Eastern White Pine and a species of blueberry, but we are unaware of the source of these records and have not observed larvae in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: Adults readily come to light but their response to bait and flowers is unknown.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G4 S2S3

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

COMMENTS: We have very few records for this species in North Carolina, all from high elevations summits, suggesting that it may be Pleistocene relict. More work is needed to identify the larval hosts in North Carolina, and hence its exact habitat associations. However, as a high elevation habitat specialist, it is likely to be highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change as well as other impacts that are rapidly degrading the habitats of the highest summits in the Southern Appalachians.