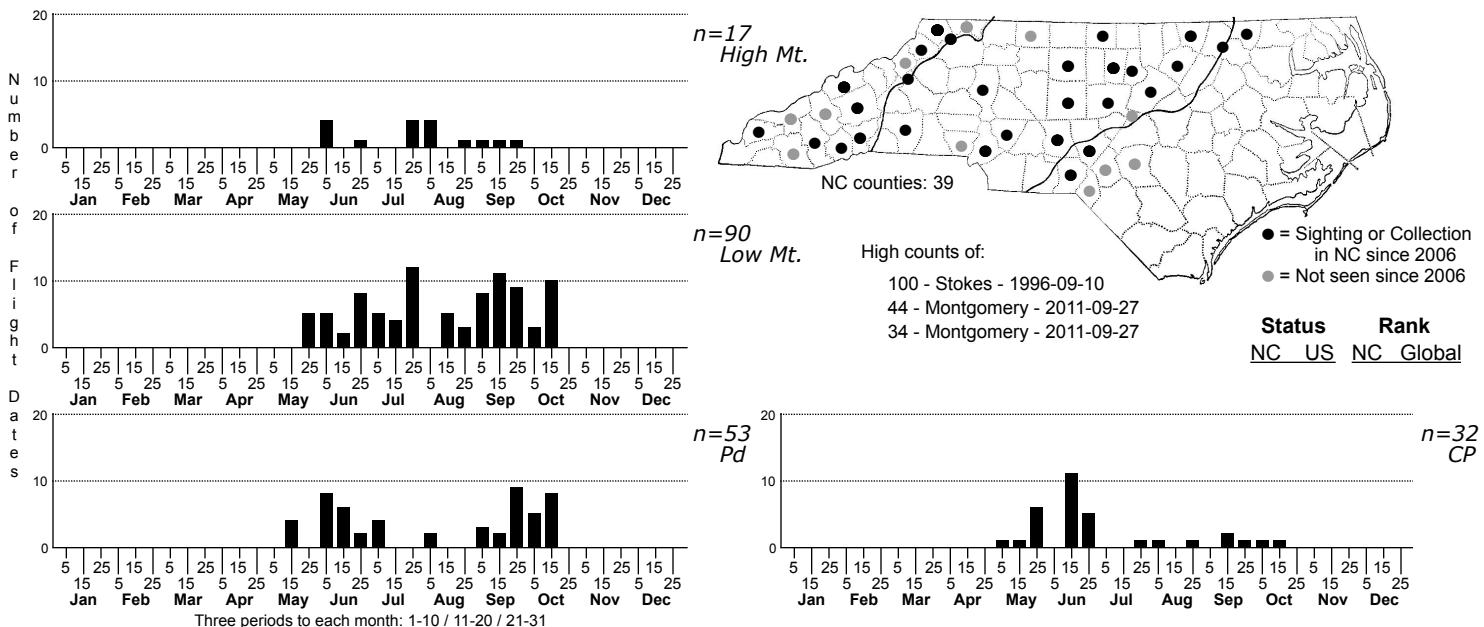


Protolampra brunneicollis Brown-collared Dart



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Noctuinae TRIBE: Noctuini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: The genus is Holarctic, with one species in Eurasia and two species in North America, one of which is widely distributed in North Carolina. The genus is related to *Abagrotis*.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984); Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1954, as *Noctua brunneicollis*); Lafontaine (1998)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Wagner et al. (2011)

ID COMMENTS: Our species is a moderately large noctuid with a dark brown thoracic collar and head. Forewings are uniformly light brown to slightly mottled, with a dark subterminal mark on the costa. Hindwings are unusually broad and pearly in color.

DISTRIBUTION: Found from the western Coastal Plain to the higher mountains

FLIGHT COMMENT: This is one of our more common noctuids and is apt to be found during any of the warmer months. There appear to be two broods across most of the state with perhaps a single brood at higher altitudes.

HABITAT: Our records come from primarily from hardwood forests, including wet, mesic, and dry types, as well as from old fields and other open habitats. Remarkably, for a species recorded to feed on Blueberries and Sweet Gale we have only a small number of records from the Coastal Plain, all from the Fall-line Sandhills. In that area, most of our records come from Streamhead Swamp Forests, with just a few from Longleaf Pine habitats, including Sandhill Seeps and drier Pine-Scrub Oak Sandhills.

FOOD: Larvae are polyphagous, general feeders on herbaceous and low growing woody plants. Wagner et al. (2011) specifically list Sweet-fern (*Comptonia peregrina*), Cultivated Tobacco (*Nicotiana tabacum*), Common Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*), clover (*Trifolium*), and blueberry (*Vaccinium*).

OBSERVATION METHODS: Adults are common at light sources but their attraction to bait or flowers is unrecorded.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S4S5]

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

COMMENTS: This is common species over the western two-thirds of the state and occupies a wide range of habitat types; it thus seems secure in North Carolina.