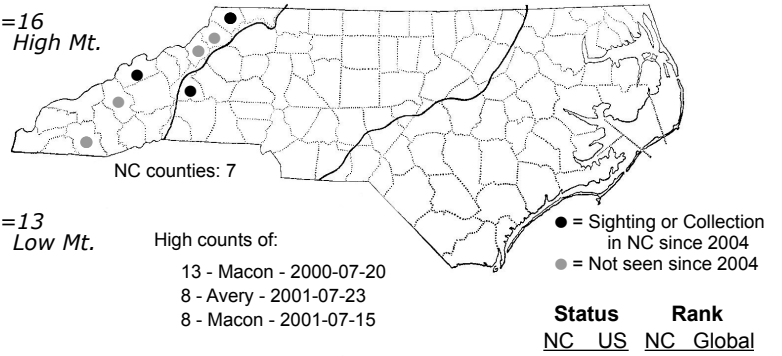
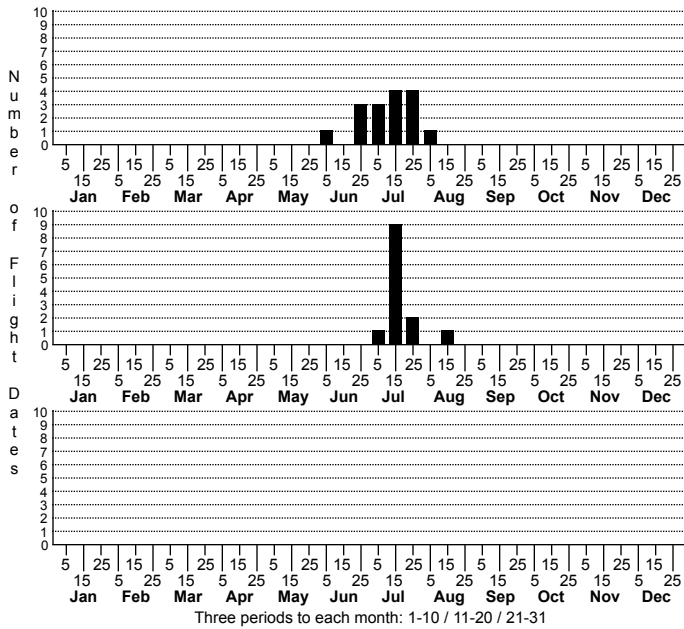


Eueretagrotis attentus Attentive Dart Moth



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Noctuinae TRIBE: Noctuini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: This genus contains 3 northern New World species that come down the Appalachian Mountains into North Carolina.

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1954)

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

ID COMMENTS: This species has a chocolate-colored collar, rather than the black found in the other two species (Forbes, 1954); however, there may be a black stripe (Sullivan, pers. obs.). It has a strong but diffuse and irregular blackish basal dash but the cell in between the orbicular and reniform is filled with the ground color, rather than the black found in the other two species (Forbes, 1954). The orbicular is round rather than oval, as in the other two species. The hindwing is pearl-colored (Sullivan, pers. obs.).

DISTRIBUTION: Restricted to the Mountains in North Carolina.

FLIGHT COMMENT: There is a single brood on the wing in June and July, perhaps into August at the higher elevations.

HABITAT: The majority of our records come from Northern Hardwood and Spruce-fir Forests above 3500', but we also have records from hardwood forests on slopes and ridges at lower elevations, particularly in the southern part of our mountains.

FOOD: Larvae are likely feeding on low growing forbs and woody plants. Larvae have been found on blueberry and willow and are associated with blueberry barrens and bogs in the northern part of the range (Wagner et al., 2011).

OBSERVATION_METHODS: Adults come readily to light but we could not find information regarding their attraction to bait or flowers.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G4 [S3S4]

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

COMMENTS: This species appears to be a specialist on mesic montane forests and may, thus, be at some risk due to the effects of climate change. More needs to be known about its distribution, habitats, and host plants before its conservation status can be accurately determined.