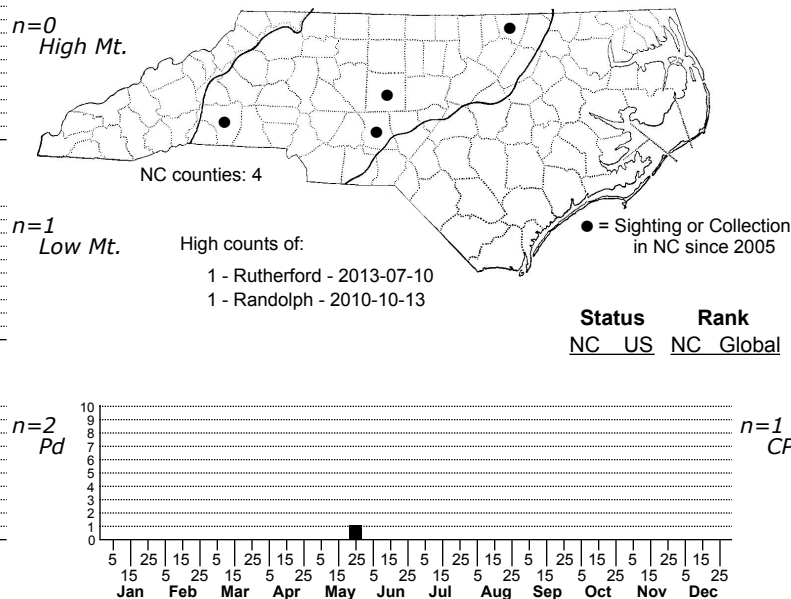
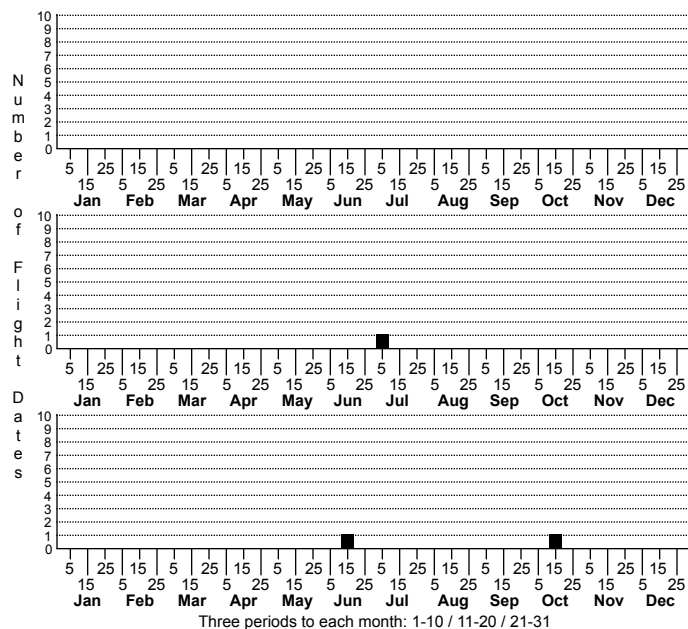


# *Abagrotis brunneipennis* Yankee Dart



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Noctuinae TRIBE: Noctuini  
TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Lafontaine (1998)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The forewings are dark brown with a glossy sheen, but paler orange-brown and yellow-brown forms also occur. (Lafontaine, 1998). The lines and spots are barely evident. In some specimens, the antemedial and subterminal areas are entirely black, and a diffuse area of black is located on the costa just proximal to the subterminal line. The side of the labial palpus is mostly black, contrasting with the color of head and thorax. *Abagrotis cupida* is similar but typically has a much more strongly marked black patch on the costa just before the subterminal line (Lafontaine, 1998). In both *alternata* and *anchoceliodes*, the spots are much more strongly marked and are much larger in *alternata*. The side of the palpus is reddish brown in both of those species and is only slightly darker than the head and thorax.

DISTRIBUTION: This is primarily a northern species but with several confirmed records from the Piedmont and one from Blue Ridge escarpment in North Carolina

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: According to Lafontaine (1998), this species is associated with blueberries growing in sandy areas, primarily in Canadian zone habitats of Canada and northern United States. Our records come from fairly dry woodlands, with at least two and possibly three associated with mafic rock formations

FOOD: Larvae have been found on blueberry (*Vaccinium* spp.) on a number of occasions (Lafontaine, 1998). We do not have any feeding records in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G4 SNR [S1S2]

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

COMMENTS: This is a primarily northern species that reaches the southern end of its range in North Carolina (MPG; GBIF). Unlike several of our species that appear to be Pleistocene relicts and are restricted to the Blue Ridge Province, this species has only been recorded at fairly low elevations in North Carolina. It appears to be a resident species, however, with most of our records coming from the middle of the growing season. At least one specimen has been confirmed by genetic analysis.