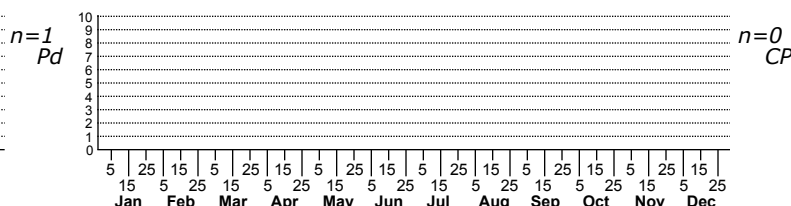
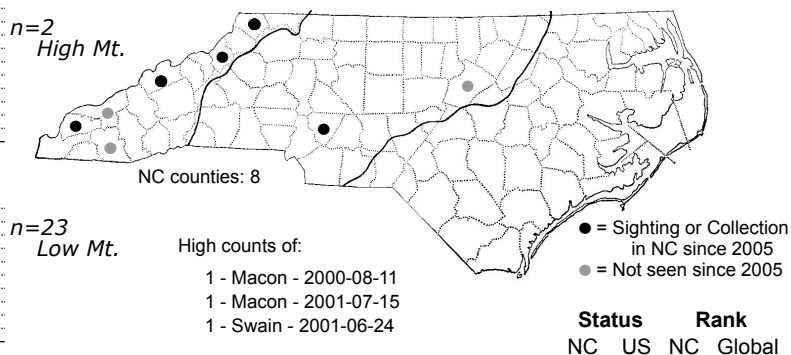
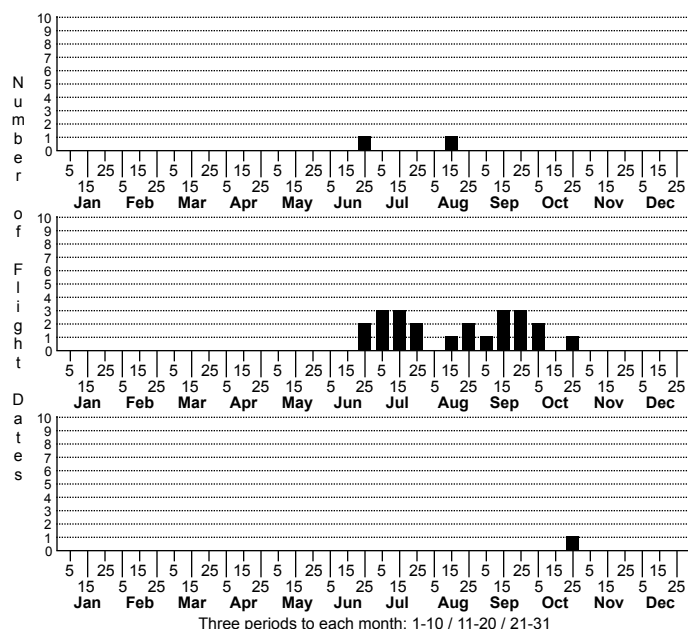


Abagrotis anchocelioides Blueberry Budworm Moth



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Noctuinae TRIBE: Noctuini
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1954)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: A medium-sized, dull reddish-brown dart. The head, thorax, and ground color of the forewings are all reddish-fuscous with an iridescent crimson sheen in some lights (Forbes, 1954). The antemedial and postmedial lines are double, with the postmedial line followed by a series of pale points. The subterminal line is continuous and somewhat waved, and often meets a small blackish blotch where it strikes the costa. It is followed by a pale, but not strongly contrasting, terminal area. The orbicular and reniform are dark brown and surrounded by a contrasting luteous outline; their maximum width generally tends to be smaller than the space that separates them.

Abagrotis alternata is similar, but tends to have larger spots, along with an orbicular spot that is more elongated than that of the relatively rounded orbicular spot of *A. anchocelioides*. The subterminal line is interrupted on the veins or consists of separated dots, and the dark blotch where it meets the costa is absent. There is often a strong outward bulge about 1/4 below the apex in *alternata*, but is rarely present in *anchocelioides* or is much less prominent (J.B. Sullivan, pers. obs.). According to Lafontaine (1998), the second segment of the labial palpus is unicolorous reddish-brown, whereas in *A. alternata*, the apex is yellow-buff, contrasting with the reddish-brown sides.

DISTRIBUTION: Nearly all of our records come from lower elevations in the Blue Ridge.

FLIGHT COMMENT: *A. anchocelioides* is basically a June-July species and *alternata* is uncommon at that time but abundant in the fall (J.B. Sullivan, pers. obs.).

HABITAT:

FOOD: Blueberry (*Vaccinium* spp.) is listed by the HOSTS database (Robinson et al., 2010), but this host requires confirmation.

OBSERVATION_METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G4 SNR [S2S3]

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

COMMENTS: