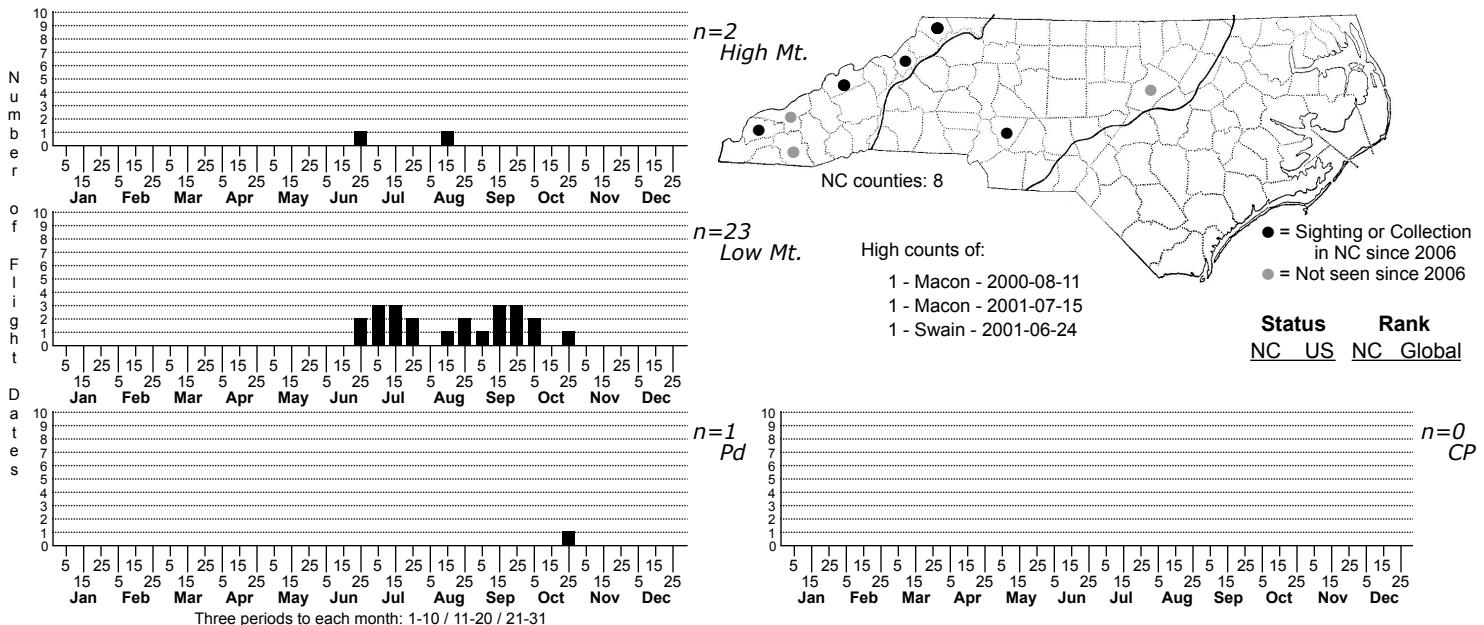


# *Abagrotis anchoceloides* Blueberry Budworm Moth



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. anchoceloides*. 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 *anchoceloides* 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. anchoceloides* 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: