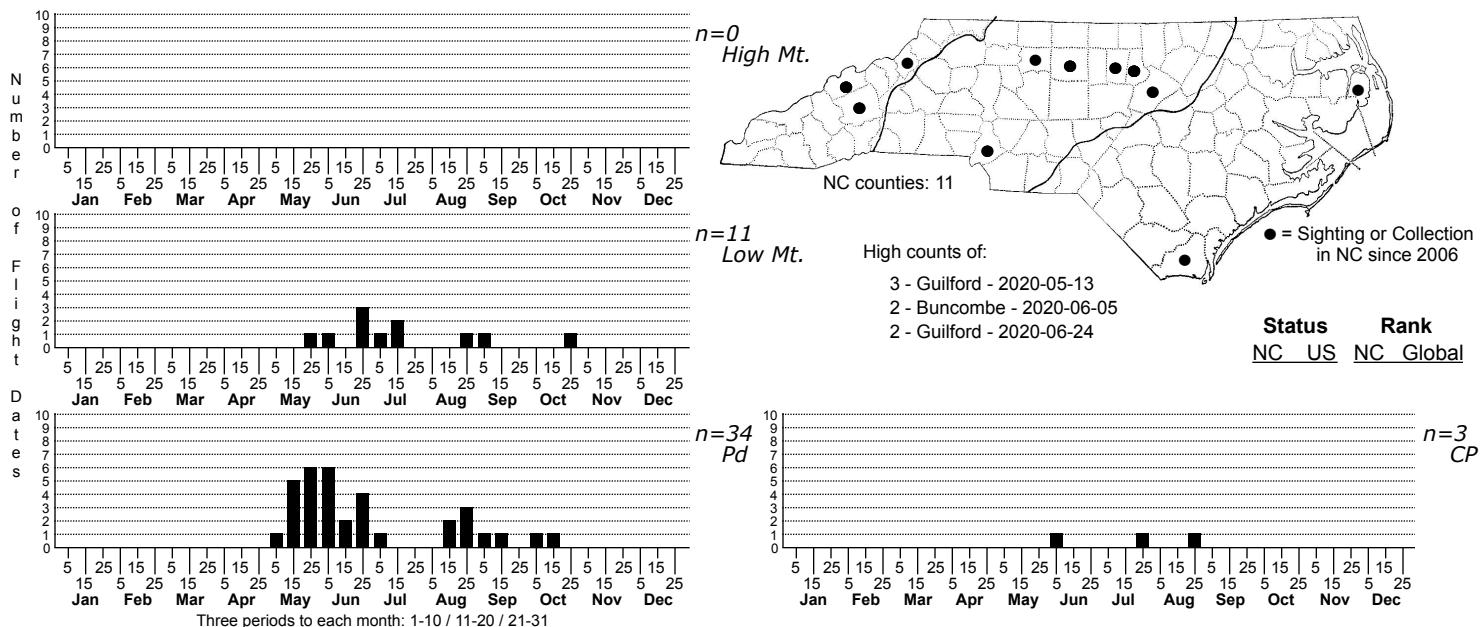


# *Oegoconia novimundi* Four-spotted Yellowneck Moth



FAMILY: Autostichidae SUBFAMILY: Symmocinae TRIBE: [Symmocini]

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: <i>Oegoconia</i> is a genus with 13 recognized species that are native to the Old World; two of these have been introduced into the US.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Busck 1915; Forbes, 1923; Landry et al., 2013

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The following is based on descriptions by Busck (1915) and Forbes (1923). The head is dark fuscous, and the antenna dark fuscous with the apical third pale ocherous. The second joint of the labial palp is dark brown with a yellow apex and inner sides. The terminal joint is dark brown with the extreme tip ocherous. The tips of the tegulae and posterior region of the thorax are light ocherous and together produce a light band near the wing base. The forewings is dark fuscous with three light ocherous marks. The first is a small subcostal spot at about one-fifth the wing length. At one-half, there is a larger spot that often appears as a jagged fascia that extends from the costa to near the inner margin. A third small spot occurs at the apical fourth along the costa, and sometimes has an opposing small dot near the inner margin. The cilia are dark fuscous, and the hindwing light fuscous with whitish fuscous cilia. The abdomen is dark fuscous with a light anal tuft. The legs are dark fuscous with light ocherous annulations at the base of the joints.

DISTRIBUTION: <i>Oegoconia novimundi</i> is native to western Europe. It was apparently introduced to the East Coast over a century ago, and to California sometime around the 1930's (Powell and Opler, 2009). It is now widely distributed across the US and extreme southern Canada. It is common in the West Coast states and in much of the eastern US, except for the southeastern Coastal Plain. Scattered populations occur in the interior regions of the country. As of 2020, our records are all from the Piedmont and lower mountains.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Adults have been observed from April through September in different areas of the range, with a seasonal peak in June-August. As of 2020, we have records from early May through October, with peak activity in May and June.

HABITAT: Almost all of our records are from urban-suburban environments.

FOOD: The larvae are detritivores that feed on decaying plant material and decomposing leaves (Powell and Opler, 2009).

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR SNR [SNA]

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

COMMENTS: This is an introduced species from Europe and does not merit protection.