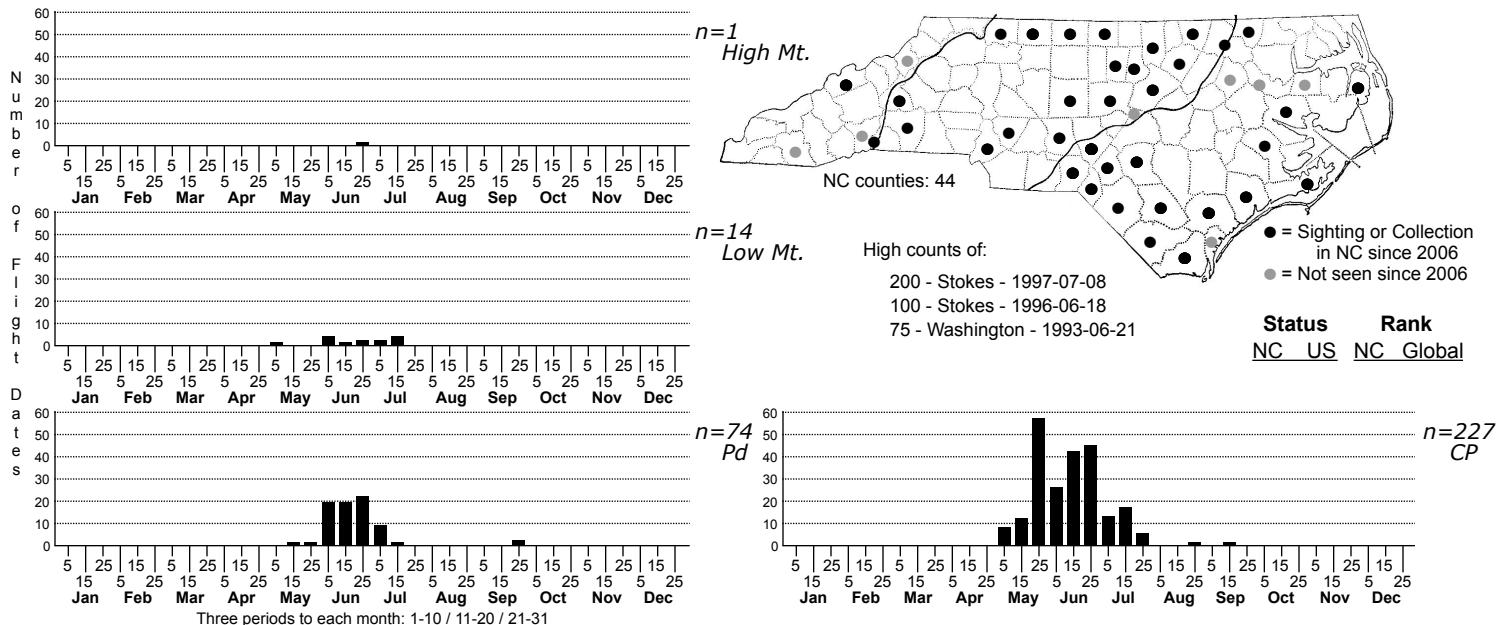


Megalopyge crispata Black-waved Flannel Moth



FAMILY: Megalopygidae SUBFAMILY: TRIBE:

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of four members of this genus in North America, two of which occur in North Carolina. Variably placed in the genera <i>Megalopyge</i> and <i>Lagoa</i>, it is currently assigned to the latter.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1923)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Wagner (2005)

ID COMMENTS: This is a heavy-bodied species with a furry head and thorax that is medium to pale yellow. The legs are also furry and pale yellow, with prominent black tips. The forewing is pale yellow with wavy "hairs" across the basal half that imparts a distinctive wrinkled or woolly appearance. The most obvious marks are discrete black waves running just above the costa, typically with several orange or brown waves beneath. These marks vary in intensity in the female and on worn individuals. <i>Megalopyge crispata</i> is similar in size and shape to <i>M. opercularis</i> but the forewings are pale yellow rather than orange-brown as seen in the latter. In addition, <i>M. opercularis</i> tends to have more extensive black scaling on the tips of the legs.

DISTRIBUTION: Probably occurs statewide, from the Barrier Islands to the High Mountains

FLIGHT COMMENT: Appears to have a single flight in the summer, from May to July

HABITAT: Our records come from essentially every habitat type in the state, including maritime forests and scrub; peatlands; Longleaf Pine savannas, flatwoods, and sandhills; bottomland forests; mesic to dry slopes in the Piedmont and Mountains, including northern hardwoods at our highest elevations.

FOOD: Larvae are polyphagous, feeding on a variety of shrubs and trees including alder, apple, birches, blackberries, oaks, poplars, cherries, sassafras, willows, and many others (Wagner, 2005). In North Carolina, we have observed the species feeding on American Beech (<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>), Eastern Redbud (<i>Cercis canadensis</i>), a maple (<i>Acer</i> sp.), and an oak (<i>Quercus</i> sp.).

OBSERVATION METHODS: Readily attracted to lights. Adults have only reduced mouthparts and probably do not feed; consequently, they do not come to bait or flowers.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 [S5]

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

COMMENTS: This species occurs widely across the state, occupying a broad range of habitats, and utilizing a large set of host plants, including many that are common. Consequently, this species appears to be quite secure in North Carolina