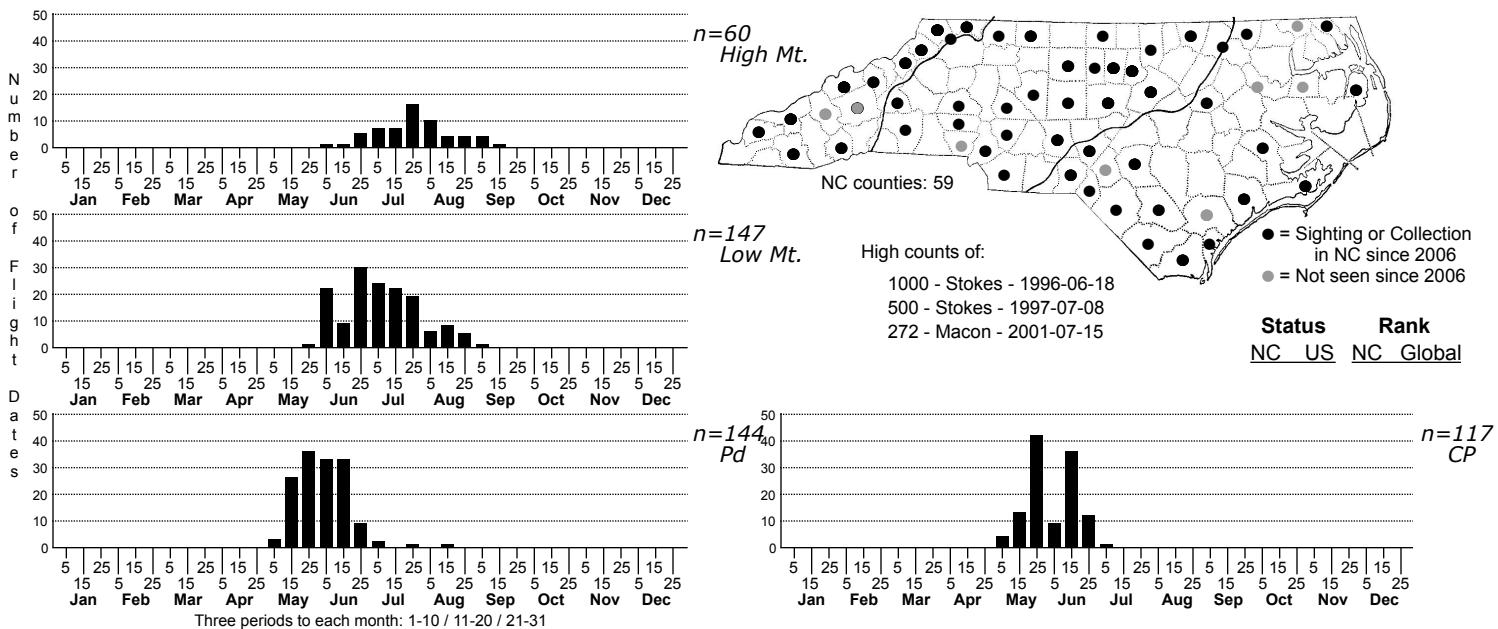


# Macaria pustularia Lesser Maple Spanworm Moth



FAMILY: Geometridae SUBFAMILY: Ennominae TRIBE: Macariini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: This is one of 73 species in this genus that occur in North America, with 17 species occurring in North Carolina. In the latest checklist of North American Lepidoptera (Pohl and Nanz, 2023), North American members of the genus *Speranza* and *Epelis* were treated as junior synonyms of *Macaria*.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984; as *Itame pustularia*); Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1948); Ferguson (2008)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Forbes (1948); Wagner et al. (2001); Wagner, 2005; Ferguson (2008)

ID COMMENTS: *Macaria pustularia* is a medium-sized, glossy white geometrid. Like other members of the Macarini, but unlike all other white geometrids in our area, its forewings are subfalcate and the hindwing somewhat pointed (Forbes, 1948). Usually, the wings are crossed by three well-defined, reddish-brown transverse lines, although they are obscure in some specimens or marked only at the costa. There may also be a band of dark speckles in the subterminal area and a terminal series of dark spots or dashes.

DISTRIBUTION: Found statewide, from the Barrier Island to High Mountains

FLIGHT COMMENT: Univoltine, flying mainly in the spring and summer

HABITAT: North Carolina records come from a wide variety of hardwood habitats, especially wet or mesic sites but at least some from dry ridges.

FOOD: Stenophagous, feeding on maples, particularly Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*) (Forbes, 1948; Wagner et al., 2001; Ferguson, 2008). Other species that have been reported as host plants include Sugar Maple (*A. saccharum*), Silver Maple (*A. saccharinum*), and Mountain Maple (*A. spicatum*) (Ferguson, 2008). Reports from other hosts require verification.

OBSERVATION METHODS: Comes well to black lights but we do not have any records from bait.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S4S5]

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

COMMENTS: Although this species uses only a narrow range of host plants, it is as abundant and ubiquitous as its main host plant, Red Maple, and appears to be equally secure within the state.