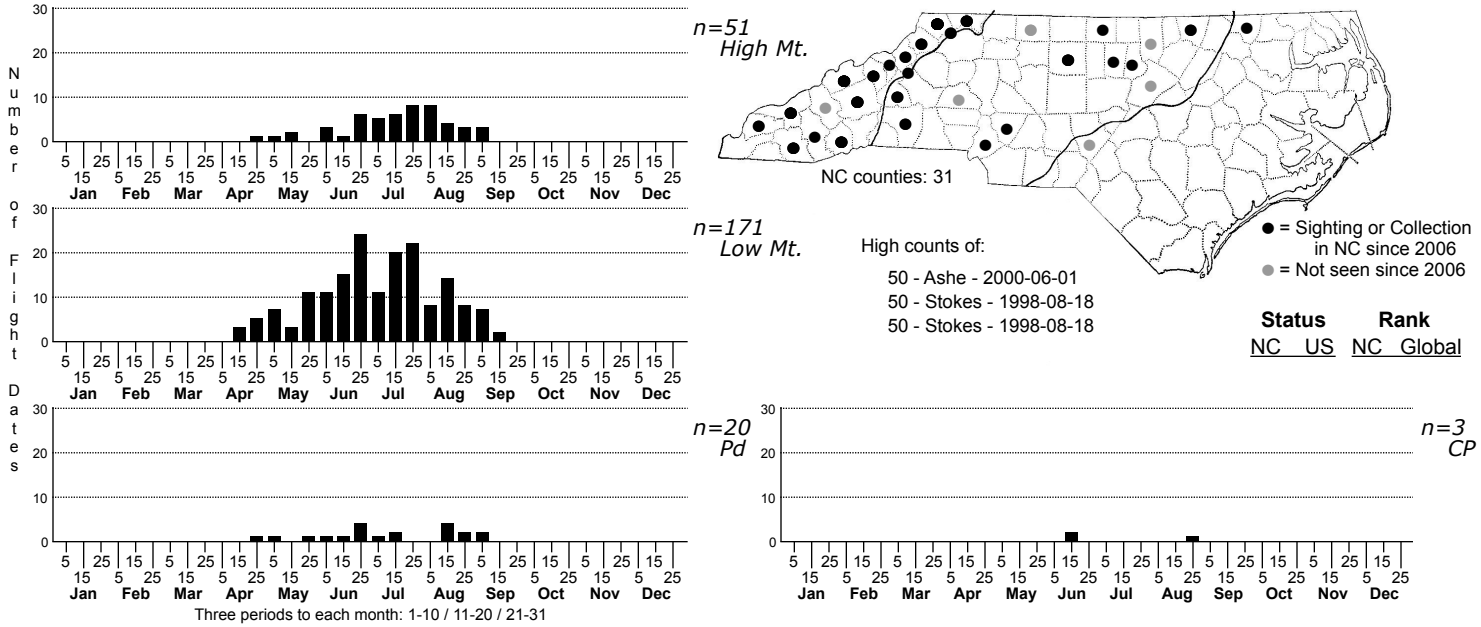
Digrammia ocellinata Faint-spotted Angle



FAMILY: Geometridae SUBFAMILY: Ennominae TRIBE: Macariini
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: One of 49 species in this genus recorded in North America (Ferguson, 2008), six of which occur in North Carolina. Digrammia ocellinata, ordinata, and eremiata were placed in the legume-feeding Eremiata Species Group by Ferguson.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984; as Semiothisa ocellinata); Beadle and Leckie (2012)
ONLINE PHOTOS:
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1948); Ferguson (2008)
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Wagner et al. (2001); Wagner (2005); Ferguson (2008)

ID COMMENTS: A medium-sized, grayish-brown Geometrid. Forewings are somewhat more falcate and the hindwings more angular than other members of this genus but less so than in Macaria species (Ferguson, 2008). The ground color of the wings is pale grayish-white. The transverse lines are often fairly diffuse, unlike the well-defined lines present in the other members of this species group, eremiata and ordinata. Like ordinata, however, the postmedian line consists of a series of dark dots located on the veins. Like D. gnophosaria, it has a hollow (ocellate) reniform located along the medial line, but is usually less conspicuous than in gnophosaria. Also differing from gnophosaria, the medial line usually does not converge with the antemedian at the inner margin. The most prominent marking is a fairly wide brown band located in the subterminal area but not extending to the outer margin. This band often contrasts strongly with the much paler basal, medial, and terminal areas.

DISTRIBUTION: Common in the Mountains but uncommon to sparse in the Piedmont and especially the Coastal Plain.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Appears to be univoltine, with adults flying in the spring and summer

HABITAT: Most of our records come from the Mountains, where Black Locust is considered to be native (Weakley, 2015). Habitats there range from fairly basic woodlands in the Amphibolite region, to fairly acidic in southern mountains. Most sites appear to be fairly dry but at least a few are from mesic areas, such as along the New River. Habitats in the Piedmont may all represent disturbed areas where Black Locust has been planted.

FOOD: Larvae are monophagous or possibly stenophagous, feeding primarily on Black Locust (Robinia pseudoacacia) and possibly Honey Locust (Gleditsia triacanthos) (Wagner et al., 2001; Ferguson, 2008). We do not have any feeding records in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: Comes well to blacklights but has not been recorded on bait.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S3S4]

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

COMMENTS: This species is common throughout the Mountains and its range appears to be expanding eastward due to the widespread planting of Black Locust.