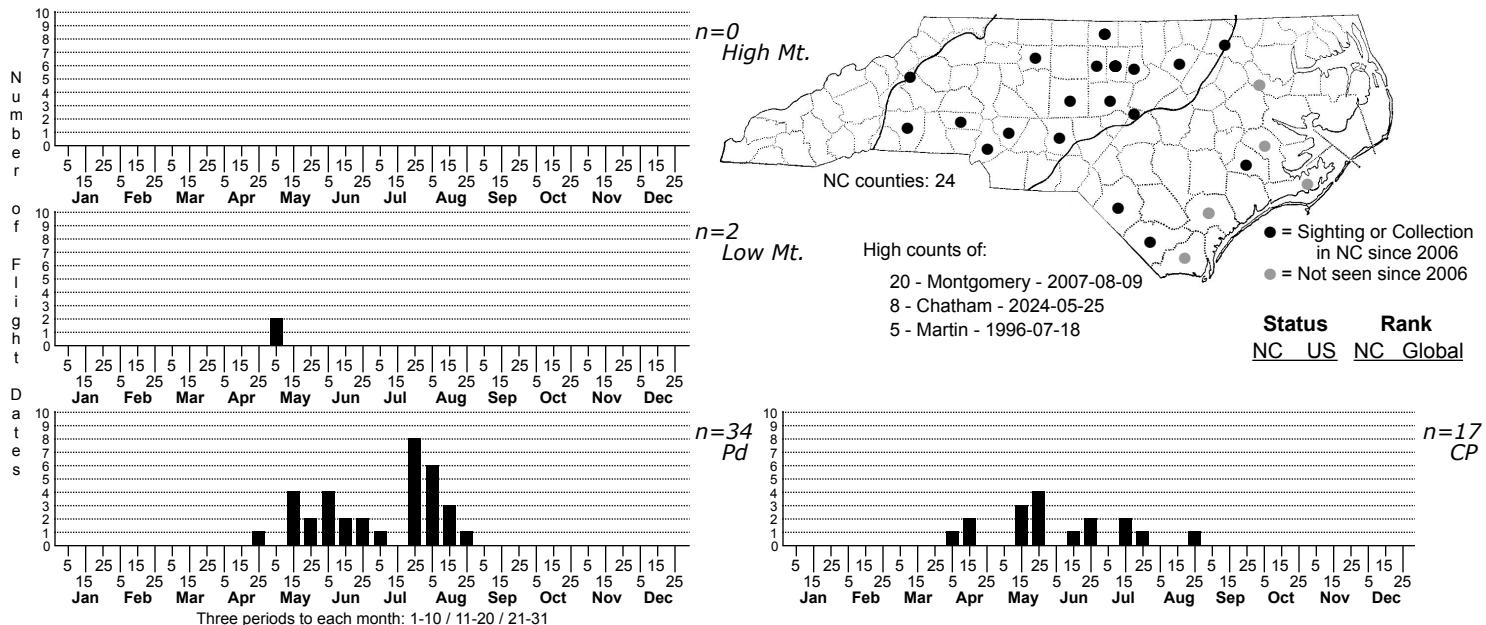


Hypomecis longipectinaria Broadly Pectinate Hypomecis



FAMILY: Geometridae SUBFAMILY: Ennominae TRIBE: Boarmiini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of five members of this genus that occur in North America (Rindge, 1973; Blanchard and Knudson, 1984). Four species have been recorded in North Carolina, although we regard gnophosaria and umbrosaria as conspecific.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Blanchard and Knudon (1984)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: A medium-sized Gray. The ground color is pale gray to clay colored, variably dusted with darker gray; some (probably the majority) are pale with strongly contrasting lines and spots but others are fuscous, with the markings much less prominent. The postmedian is usually well-developed, dentate, and outwardly curving around the cell; the hollow discal spots typical of this genus are also typically prominent on both pairs of wings. These features are similar to those of other members of this genus, as is the range of variation. Structural features are critical in diagnosing this species and photographs are generally not conclusive except where the length of the pectinations of the male antennae are clearly displayed.

DISTRIBUTION: Our records come from the Outer Coastal Plain to the foothills of the Blue Ridge.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Possibly bivoltine, with a peak in April and May and another cluster in July and August.

HABITAT: The majority of our records come from bottomland hardwoods, with a few also coming from stands of mesic forest adjoining tracts of bottomlands. None come from drier stands of upland hardwoods or from either peatland or longleaf pine-dominated communities. Blanchard and Knudson (1984) stated that their specimens came from mixed evergreen and deciduous forests, contrasting with *H. gnophosaria*/*umbrosaria* which were also found in pure stands of hardwoods; our records, however, suggest the opposite.

FOOD: Host plants are poorly documented, but there is a BugGuide record (George Smiley, 2020) for a larva on Bur Oak (<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>) in Texas.

OBSERVATION METHODS: All of our records come from 15 watt blacklight traps.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G3G4 S3S4

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

COMMENTS: NatureServe states that this species is poorly known and with few records away from the Gulf Coast. However, we now have records from most of the state and from fairly common types of habitat. Although this species was placed on the Natural Heritage Program Watch List following the initial discovery of this species in the early 1990s - mainly because its distribution and status needed to be better understood -- we now recommend that it be taken off that list and ranked as S4 at the state level.