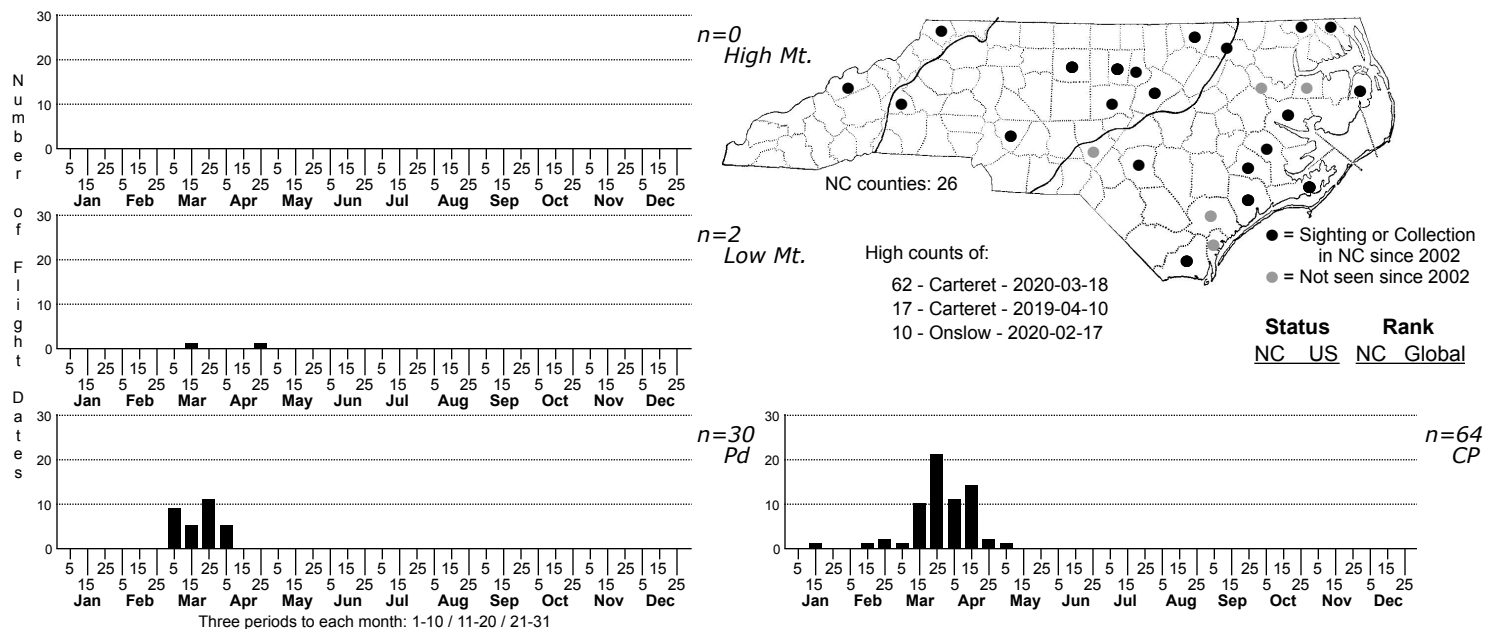


Cleora sublunaria Double-lined Gray Moth



FAMILY: Geometridae SUBFAMILY: Ennominae TRIBE: Boarmiini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: This genus occurs over much of the world but in North America there are only two species and both occur in North Carolina.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984); Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1948)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Wagner et al. (2001)

ID COMMENTS: Moderately long-winged and similar in pattern and coloration to other Geometrids loosely termed the Grays. Usually easy to distinguish by its strong, black, and double-lined antemedian and by a white basal ring or bar on the abdomen followed by black patch. In *Anavitrinella* and a few of the *Iridopsis* that have contrasting rings at the base of the abdomen, the black bar is basal to the pale ring and none have a doubled antemedian line. While both species in the genus look quite similar, the frons is usually white in males and many female *C. sublunaria* and gray in *C. projecta*.

DISTRIBUTION: Occurs across the Coastal Plain and Piedmont and reaches the Low Mountains

FLIGHT COMMENT: This species begins to fly in late February or early March and is finished by the end of April. The flight of this species is a good indication that the worst of winter is past.

HABITAT: We have records from a fairly wide range of Coastal Plain habitats. A number of records come from Maritime Forest and Maritime Scrub communities on the Barrier Islands, as well as from mainland areas supporting similar Coastal Fringe Evergreen Forest and Coastal Fringe Sandhill communities. Farther inland, we have records from much wetter sites, including riparian forests, nonriverine swamp forests, lake and pond shores. At least some records also come from peatland and Longleaf Pine communities, where its range overlaps with that of *Cleora projecta*. Piedmont records are currently restricted to the eastern edge, where they have been found again along shoreline habitats but also in stands of upland hardwoods.

FOOD: Recorded from cherry, oak and *Myrica*, and presumed to feed on many other woody plants (Wagner et al., 2001). In our experience, they are on almost any plant you beat in the spring, although at least some may represent the larvae of *Cleora projecta* which we currently cannot distinguish.

OBSERVATION METHODS: Adults readily come to lights but not to baits. The caterpillars are among the most common species found on plants in late April and May. They may be found on almost all edible plants one searches!

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 S4S5

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

COMMENTS: Caterpillars are abundant and adults are common in the lower eastern half of North Carolina. Doubtless they are common in the upper half as well but we have no records.