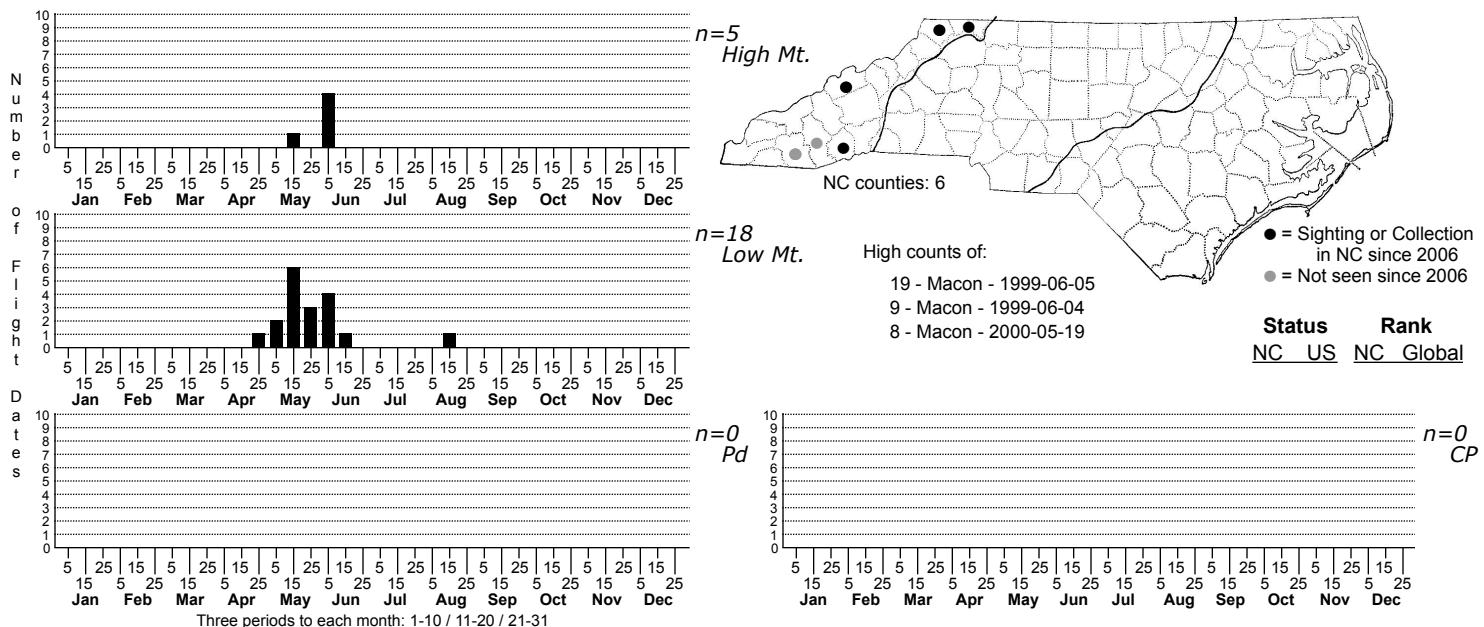


Eufidonia convergaria Pine Powder Moth



FAMILY: Geometridae SUBFAMILY: Ennominae TRIBE: Melanolophiini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of three species in this genus that occur in North America, two of which have been recorded in North Carolina.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Not in either field guide

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: McGuffin (1977)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: McGuffin (1977); Wagner et al. (2001); Maeir et al. (2011)

ID COMMENTS: Both of our species of *Eufidonia* are medium-small Geometrids with a ground color that ranges from powdery white to yellowish overlain with a variable amount of brown dusting. A black discal spot is present on both pairs of wings and fairly diffuse antemedian, median, and postmedian lines are present; a wavy white band is usually present in the subterminal area, followed by a dark brown band extending to the outer margin. The fringe is usually checkered with dark bands interrupted by narrow white streaks. These patterns strongly overlap between the species, who also show the same range of variation. Adults are not safely separated solely on the basis of wing markings.

DISTRIBUTION: Confined to the Mountains in North Carolina

FLIGHT COMMENT: Our records for this species are limited but it may have two distinct flights in North Carolina.

HABITAT: Our records come primarily from slopes and ridges rather than from cove and riparian forests where *E. notataria* primarily occurs.

FOOD: Larvae are stenophagous, feeding on Eastern White Pine (*Pinus strobus*) and other species of pines (McGuffin, 1977; Wagner et al., 2001; Maier et al., 2011). White Pine is the main host plant according to Maier et al., but Wagner et al. suggest that they may also feed on other genera of conifers. We do not have any feeding records in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION METHODS: Adults fly during the day (McGuffin, 1967) but also come to blacklights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G4 SNR [SU]

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

COMMENTS: The distribution and abundance of this moth in North Carolina are poorly known and may be somewhat confounded with that of the close look-alike, *E. notataria*. The fact that it feeds on White Pines, as well as possibly on other species of pines, suggests that it is at least not limited by host plants or habitats.