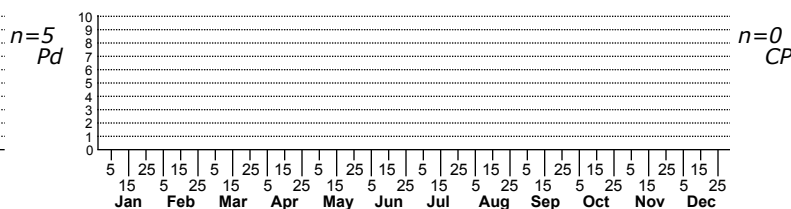
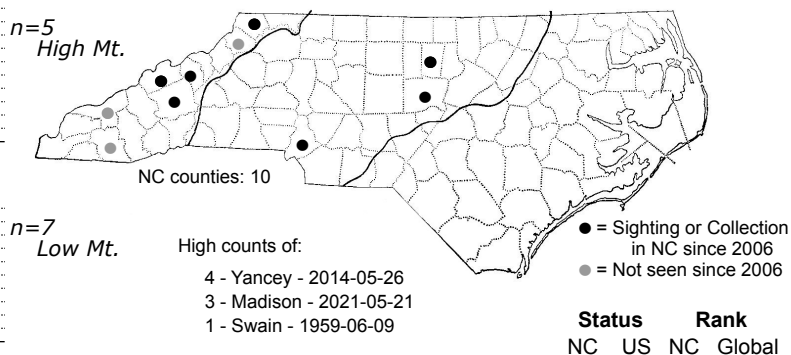
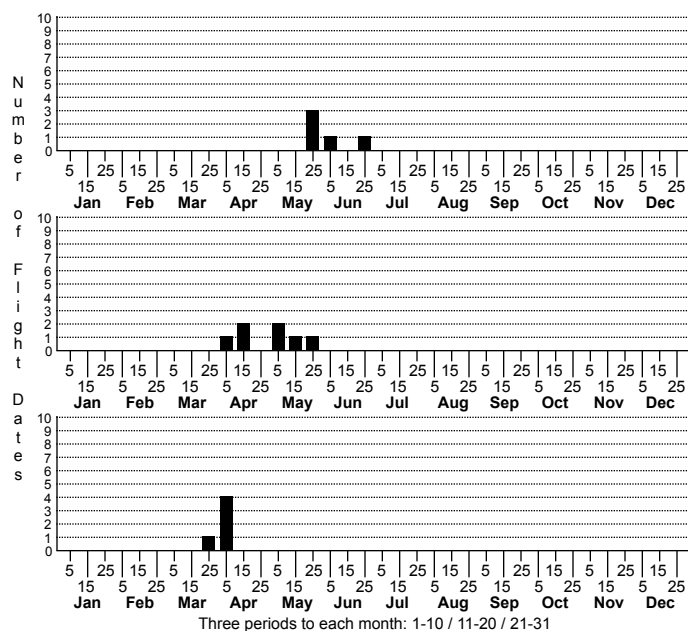


Lomographa semiclarata Bluish Spring Moth



FAMILY: Geometridae SUBFAMILY: Ennominae TRIBE: Baptini

TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: One of four species in this genus that occur in North America north of Mexico (Pohl et al., 2016). Three have been recorded 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: A moderately small Geometrid with glistening white on its hindwings and portions of its forewings. Although it lacks any actual blue coloration, the sooty brown shading on the upperside of the forewings apparently gives this species a bluish appearance when flying. When active, the wings are held upright in a closed, butterfly-like fashion. Sexes are similar.

DISTRIBUTION: Most of our records come from the Mountains, but there are -- surprisingly -- several from the eastern Piedmont.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Univoltine. This is a spring flying species, but flying at successively later months from the Piedmont to the Low Mountains, to the High Mountains.

HABITAT: Occurs at both low and high elevations in the Mountains, including above 6,000 feet in the Great Smokey Mountains National Park (Clingman's Dome, Forney's Ridge) and at Grandfather Mountain. At least some of these records appear to come from disturbed, open areas, e.g., parking lots, and the same is also true for the few records we have from the Piedmont.

FOOD: Larvae are oligophagous, feeding on shrubby members of the Rose family (Rosaceae). Wagner et al. (2002) specifically mention the following species as host plants: cherry (<i>Prunus</i>), chokeberry (<i>Aronia</i>), hawthorn (<i>Crataegus</i>), mountain-ash (<i>Sorbus</i>), and Common Ninebark (<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>). In North Carolina, a larva has been recorded on American Mountain-ash (<i>Sorbus americana</i>).

OBSERVATION_METHODS: This species appears to be primarily diurnal but comes to lights -- including both blacklights and incandescent lights -- at least to some extent. Its resemblance to butterflies, particularly Spring Azures and other blues, has been noted by several authors (Covell, 1984; Wagner et al., 2002). Like butterflies, it also visits flowers and engages in mudpuddling, i. e., extracting nutrients from wet soil.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S2S4]

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

COMMENTS: This species was probably originally associated with native Cherries and other members of the Rosaceae occurring in the Mountains. It may now be expanding its range to the east, where it may be feeding on ornamental species of Cherry. We have relatively few records for this species, possibly because it flies mainly during the day and may only come to light traps more rarely. Diurnal observations may also be fairly scarce due to its resemblance to Spring Azures and other small Blues that fly at the same times and places. The surprising discovery of this species in the eastern Piedmont indicates that there is still a lot to be learned about this species and its status in North Carolina.