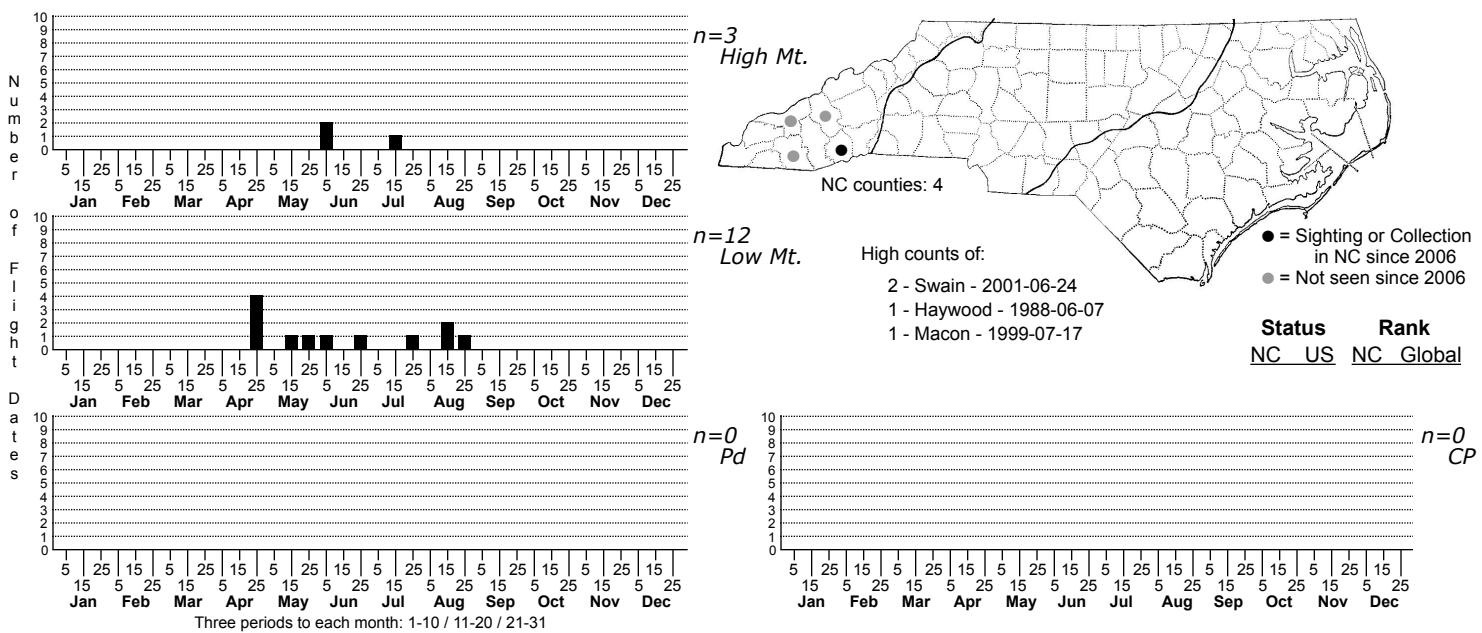


Cabera erythema Yellow-dusted Cream Moth



FAMILY: Geometridae SUBFAMILY: Ennominae TRIBE: Caberini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: The genus *Cabera* as currently conceived is found in North and South America, Europe, Asia and Africa. Some 30 species are known of which 5 occur in the United States and 3 are found in North Carolina.

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1948); Rindge (1956); McGuffin (1981)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Forbes (1948); Wagner et al. (2001)

ID COMMENTS: A medium-sized, cream colored Geometrid usually marked with three buff-colored lines. Keys for specimens of *Cabera* from North America are given in Forbes (1948), Rindge (1956), and McGuffin (1981). For the most part, however, they do not work for our individuals of *C. erythema* and *C. variolaria*, both of which can be marked with well defined crosslines or be almost entirely white. For males the color of the pectens is the best external character: white in *C. erythema* and black in *C. variolaria* (with the occasional white scale). Easily confused with other small white geometrids such as *Lomographa vestalata* (smaller, pearly white, no pectinations), *Gueneria similaria* (orange wash), *Scopula ordinata* (larger, pointed forewings), and perhaps worn specimens of *Speranza pustularia* (crosslines reddish and widening at costa).

DISTRIBUTION: All of our records come from the Mountains. However, we have no validated records from the northern counties and there is no known reason why its distribution apparently is so limited in North Carolina.

FLIGHT COMMENT: We have records from late May through August indicating multiple broods

HABITAT: Associated with *Populus* and *Salix* elsewhere but in North Carolina so far only with Salix and the open, streamside habitats where willow is usually common. We have collected both *C. erythema* and *C. variolaria* at the same location and therefore have no clues as to whether these species have different habitat preferences. The absence of this species from all more northern locations in the mountains is curious.

FOOD: Both willow (*Salix*) and poplar (*Populus*) are used further north (Wagner et al., 2001). Although we have no larval records in North Carolina, adults have been collected only in the vicinity of willows.

OBSERVATION METHODS: Adults readily come to light and can be flushed near willows during the day. It is unlikely they respond to baits.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S1S3]

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

COMMENTS: We have records from only scattered sites, with confirmed records coming only from the southern half of the mountains. However, its habitats and host plants are widespread in this region and it is observed regularly at some sites.