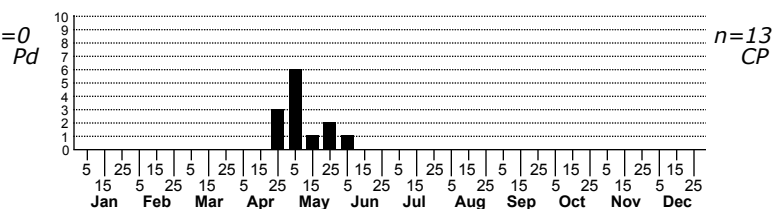
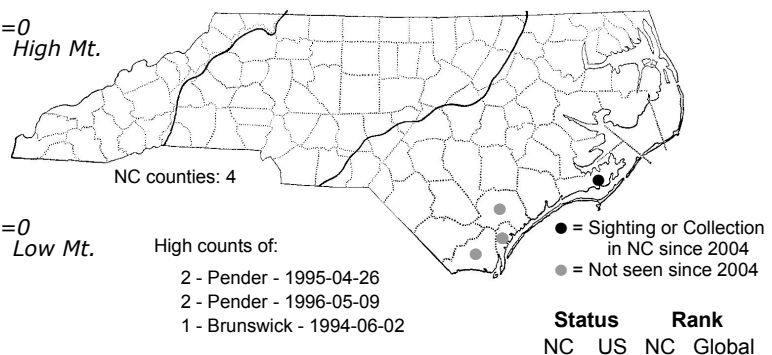
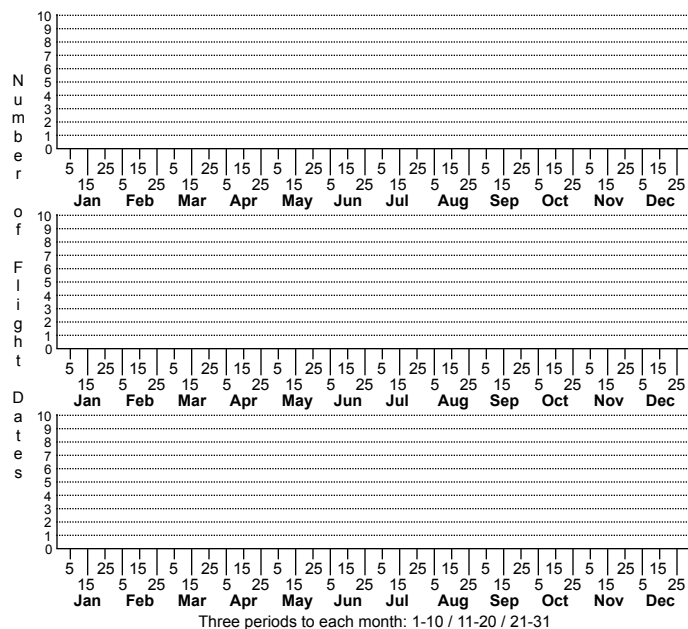


Cabera quadrifasciaria Four-lined Cabera Moth



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)

ONLINE PHOTOS: MPG, BugGuide, BAMONA, BOLD

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

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: J. Sogaard (BugGuide, 2017)

ID COMMENTS: A medium-sized, cream colored Geometrid that is easily identified by the four dark gray, crosslines that run straight across the forewing. Sexes are similar. *Scopula ordinata* looks somewhat similar, but has more pointed forewings and lines that are all bent inward below the costa (*ordinata* also very rare in the range of *C. quadrifasciaria* occurring in rich wooded habitat not open pine and savanna habitat).

DISTRIBUTION: The species has been found in the coastal counties north to Pender.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Unlike our other species of *Cabera*, this one appears to be single brooded, beginning to fly in mid to late April and continuing into early May.

HABITAT: Our records come almost exclusively from Longleaf Pine-dominated flatwoods and coastal fringe sandhills, with a single record coming from maritime forest on a barrier island.

FOOD: According to Jim Sogaard the species has been reared on Leadplant (*Amorpha canescens*) although BugGuide lists Tall Indigo-Bush (*A. fruticosa*) as the host plant, with *A. canescens* only suspected. In any case, *A. canescens* does not occur in North Carolina and *A. fruticosa* is fairly widespread, although not particularly associated with Longleaf Pine habitats. The association of this moth with flatwoods habitats, however, suggests that it may be more closely associated in North Carolina with one of the savanna species of *Amorpha*, including Savanna Indigo-Bush (*A. confusa*), Georgia Indigo-Bush (*A. georgiana*), or Dwarf Indigo-Bush (*A. herbacea*).

OBSERVATION_METHODS: Adults have all been taken at light traps but can probably be flushed during the flight period. They would not be expected at bait.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S2S3

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

COMMENTS: We have fewer than fifteen records for this species in North Carolina and from just from six sites. It also appears to be a flatwoods specialist, possibly feeding similarly restricted species of *Amorpha*. However, if it also feeds on *Amorpha fruticosa*, which appears to be one of its principal host plants in the Mid-west, then it may occur much more widely. Its apparent rarity in that case might be due to the fact that there has been little collecting during the short flight period of this species in areas where *Amorpha fruticosa* is present. More information is thus needed concerning the range of host plants and habitats used by this species in North Carolina. If it is truly associated with the savanna species of *Amorpha* rather than the more widespread *Amorpha fruticosa*, it should be considered to be Significantly Rare in this state.