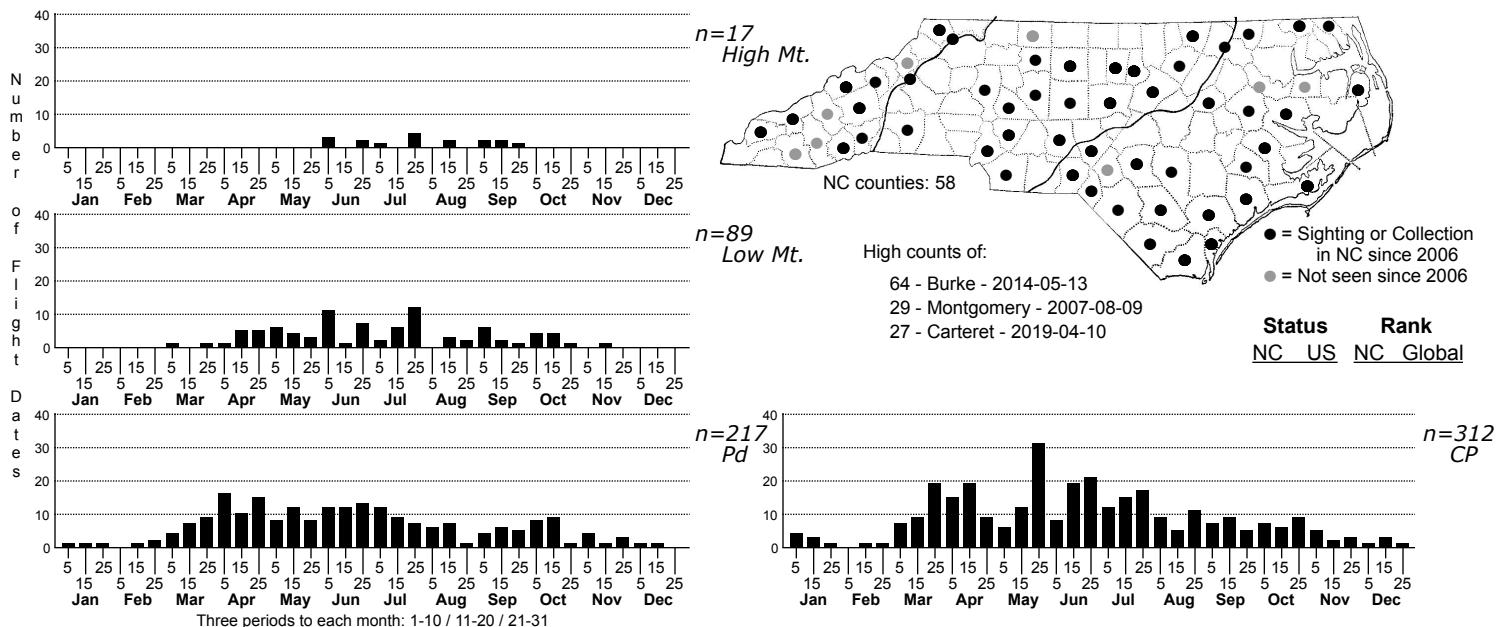


Ilexia intractata Black-dotted Ruddy Moth



FAMILY: Geometridae SUBFAMILY: Ennominae TRIBE: Caberini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: The genus *Ilexia* was created by Ferguson (2009) for the single species, *I. intractata*, which had previous been placed in *Thysanopyga*. It is a common member of the North Carolina fauna.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984; as *Thysanopyga intractata*); Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Ferguson (2009)

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

ID COMMENTS: A medium-small reddish Geometrid with variable dark and pale markings. The species is distinct and should be readily identified from illustrations. It might initially be confused with *Episemasia* but that species is distinctly smaller, noticeably different in maculation and on the wing only in the spring.

DISTRIBUTION: Found statewide.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The species is active year long with adults being among the last species on the wing in the winter and first in the spring. Caterpillars are available throughout the year.

HABITAT: Near members of the genus *Ilex* virtually anywhere they are growing. We have records from maritime scrub habitats, peatlands, Longleaf Pine woodlands, floodplains, and dry ridges.

FOOD: Larvae feed on hollies (*Ilex* spp.), with confirmed hosts in North Carolina including Inkberry (*I. glabra*), American Holly (*I. opaca*), and Yaupon Holly (*I. vomitoria*).

OBSERVATION METHODS: Adults are one of the most common species in light trap catches throughout the year in the Coastal Plain. Occasionally they can be flushed during the day but we have not seen them at bait. The caterpillars can be beat from the foodplants on any warm day (over 50 degrees) in the winter as well as all year long. They are very difficult to find once the leaves of *I. opaca* harden but persist on the other *Ilex* species.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR SNR [S5]

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

COMMENTS: This species is as widespread and abundant as are the hollies that it feeds upon. It appears to be quite secure within the state.