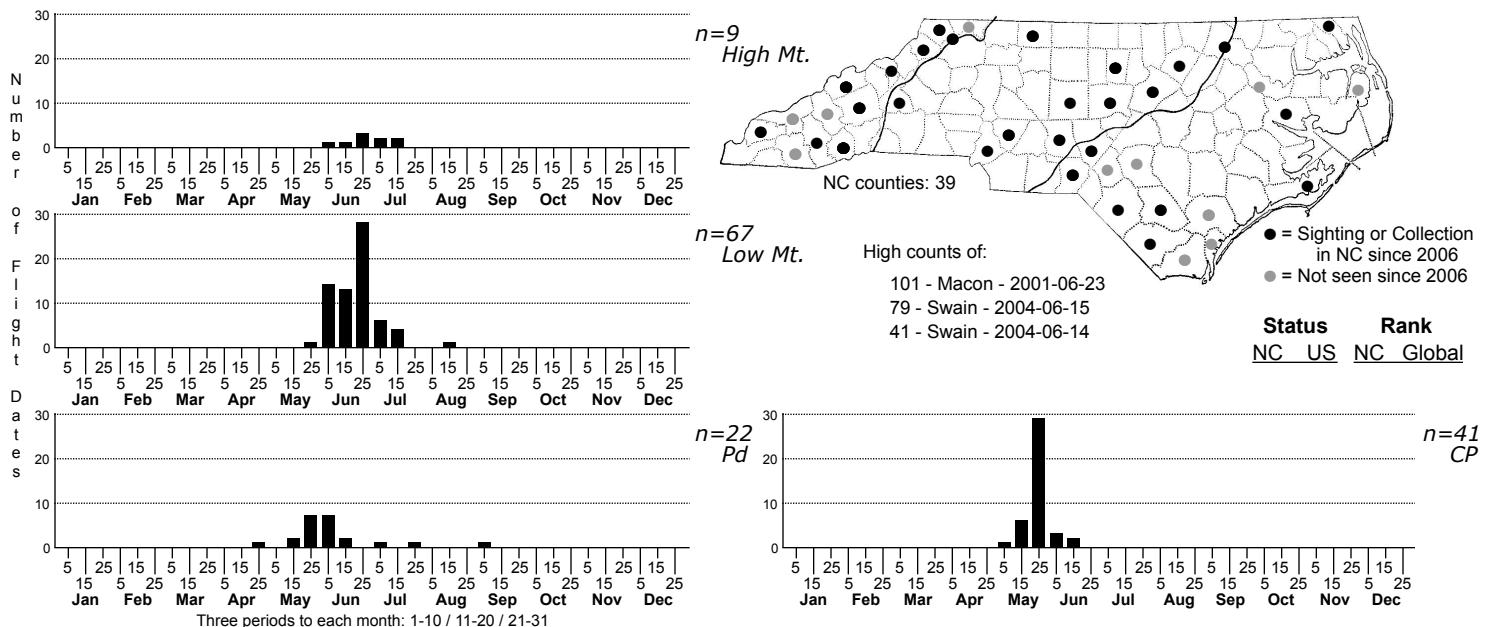


# *Lytrosis unitaria* Common Lytrosis



FAMILY: Geometridae SUBFAMILY: Ennominae TRIBE: Angeronini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS:

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: One of three very similar species which have been confused frequently, but which can be distinguished by following the course of the postmedian line on the forewing. In *Lytrosis unitaria*, the postmedian runs generally straight; although it may have a series of small waves, it lacks the deeper undulations found in *L. sinuosa* and *L. heitzmanorum*. In the hindwing of *L. unitaria*, the median band is black, broadened and similar to that found in *L. heitzmanorum* but absent in *L. sinuosa*. Females are similar but larger than males.

DISTRIBUTION: This is the most far ranging species of *Lytrosis* in North Carolina. We need records for the middle part of the state but presumably the species is common everywhere at low and moderate altitudes. Upper altitude limits unknown but it probably ranges up to 3500'.

FLIGHT COMMENT: It may fly slightly earlier than both *L. sinuosa* and *L. heitzmanorum*.

HABITAT: This common species is found throughout the state in oak-hickory forests.

FOOD: Larvae are oligophagous, feeding on hawthorn, rose, serviceberry and other Rosaceae species but also feeding in captivity on maple and oak (Wagner et al., 2001). The hosts used in North Carolina are unknown.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The species can be abundant in light traps for a short period, usually late May in the Piedmont and Coastal Plain. There are no records from bait in North Carolina but Schweitzer et al. (2011) report that worn females will come to bait presumably to refuel for more egg laying.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S4S5]

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

COMMENTS: This is the most common, most far ranging species of *Lytrosis* in North Carolina.