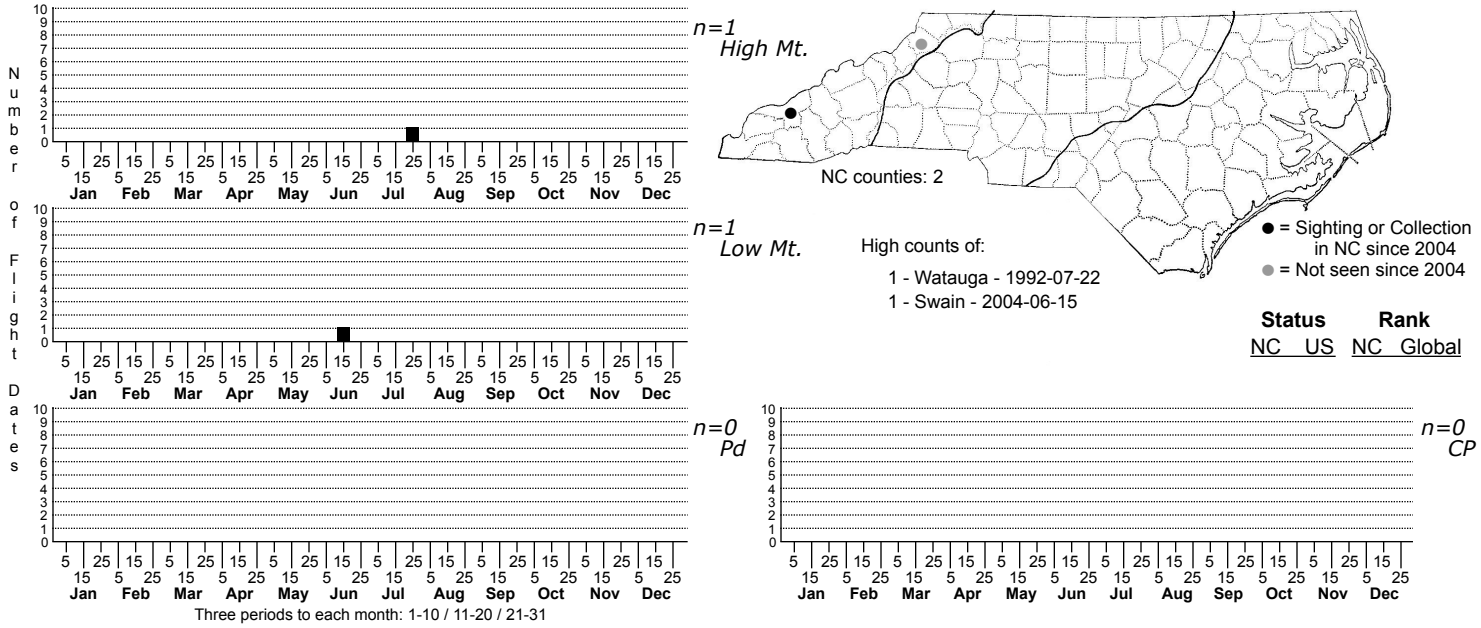
Euchlaena milnei Milne's Euchlaena



FAMILY: Geometridae SUBFAMILY: Ennominae TRIBE: Angeronini
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: One of sixteen species in this genus that occur in North America north of Mexico (Pohl et al., 2016), twelve of which have been recorded in North Carolina

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:
ONLINE PHOTOS:
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1948); Schweitzer et al. (2011)
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Schweitzer et al. (2011)

ID COMMENTS: A yellow and brown Euchlaena with a distinctive, acutely angled antemedian line that is straight above and below the point; other species of Euchlaena have a much more rounded antemedian with at most a small tooth (Forbes, 1948). The median area is yellow but heavily suffused with brown towards the base; the subterminal area is a dark, chocolate brown.

DISTRIBUTION: Currently known in North Carolina from two sites in the Mountains, one at fairly high elevation.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Probably univoltine in North Carolina, with adults flying in June and July, as in other portions of its range (Schweitzer et al., 2011)

HABITAT: Our records come from a stand of Spruce, growing at a fairly low elevation at a site where Northern Hardwoods were more widespread, and from a cove forest near the shoreline of Fontana Lake. In Virginia, it appears to be associated with mesic hardwoods and it has been recorded in riparian forests in other areas (Schweitzer, et al., 2011). No clear pattern is yet evident, however.

FOOD: Unknown although larvae accept willow and other tree species in captivity (Schweitzer et al., 2011).

OBSERVATION_METHODS: Comes to blacklights but how well is unknown.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G2G4 S1S3

STATE PROTECTION: Listed as Significantly Rare by the Natural Heritage Program. That designation does not confer any legal protection, however, although permits are required to collect it on state parks and other public lands.

COMMENTS: This species is considered very rare both globally and within North Carolina. Not enough information exists to determine the causes of its rarity, however, or how best to conserve its populations (see Schweitzer et al., 2011, for a discussion of possible threats, including Gypsy Moth control projects, fire, and over-browsing of its host plants by deer).