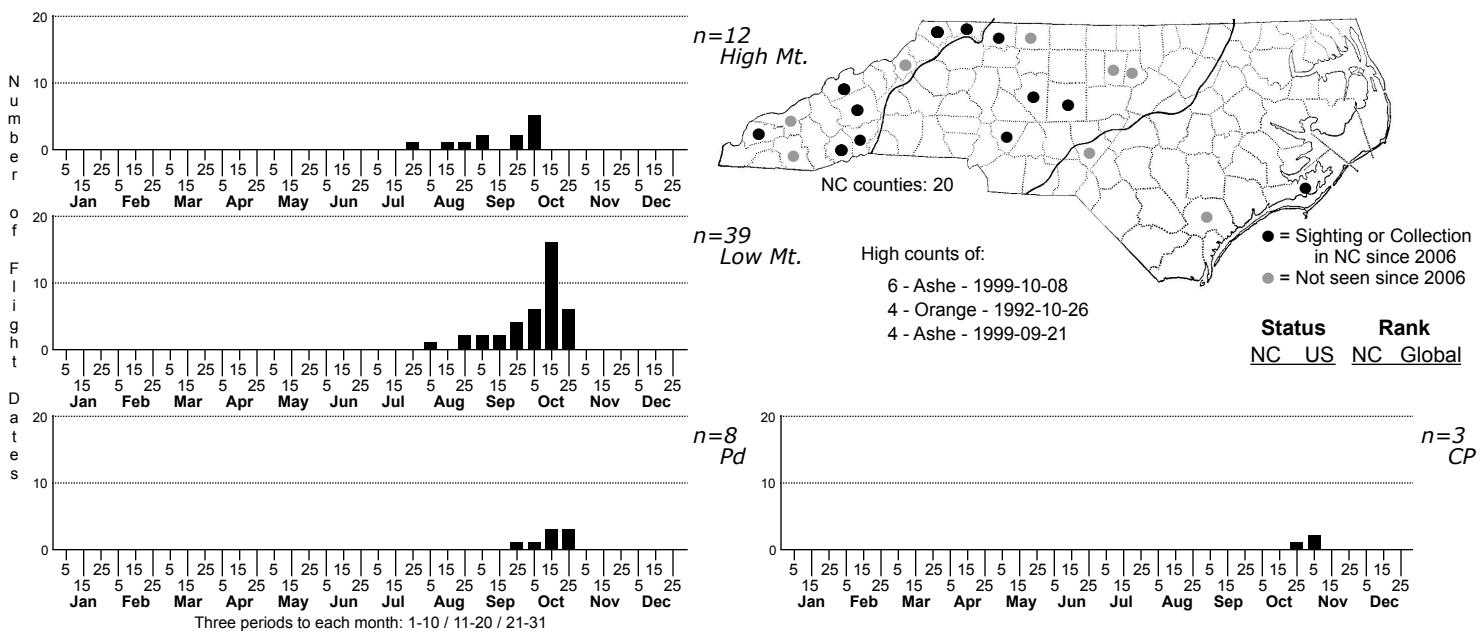


Ennomos magnaria Maple Spanworm Moth



FAMILY: Geometridae **SUBFAMILY:** Ennominae **TRIBE:** Ennomini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: A moderately large (17 species) and peculiar Asian genus with species in Europe and North America. Two species reach North Carolina.

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1948)

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

ID COMMENTS: One of our most spectacular Geometrids, this large, stout yellow-orange and brown species is likely a fall yellow leaf mimic. Sexes are similar. It is likely to be confused only with our two species of *Selenia*, which are similar in size, coloration, and scalloped wing margins. However, both of our *Selenias* fly earlier in the year, with only a small amount of overlap between *magnaria* and *Selenia kentaria* in the late summer. *Selenia kentaria* can be distinguished by the presence of pale bands or frosting on both the lower and upper surfaces of the wings, which is absent in *magnaria*.

DISTRIBUTION: The majority of our records come from the Mountains, including from high elevations. It is apparently more sparsely distributed in the Piedmont and also occurs in the Outer Coastal Plain. It thus probably has a statewide distribution.

FLIGHT COMMENT: A single brooded species that hails the coming of fall. In the Mountains at higher elevations adults can be seen in July whereas in the Coastal Plain they are rarely seen before October. This is typical for a number of species which are on the wing much earlier in the mountains than in the Coastal Plain.

HABITAT: Our records come almost exclusively from mesic hardwood forests. In the Mountains, we have records from riparian stands, cove forests, and high elevation hardwood forests. In the Piedmont, our records come mainly from upland forests associated with mafic soils. In the Coastal Plain, we have at least a few records from riparian hardwoods growing in a fairly nutrient-rich area associated with a marl layer located close to the surface. A few records from the Fall-line Sandhills come from sites with more acidic, sandy soils.

FOOD: Larvae are polyphagous, feeding on a wide variety of hardwood trees and shrubs. Wagner (2005) specifically lists maple (*Acer*), alder (*Alnus*), birch (*Betula*), hickory (*Carya*), American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), ash (*Fraxinus*), holly (*Ilex*), poplar (*Populus*), oak (*Quercus*), willow (*Salix*), and American Basswood (*Tilia americana*). In North Carolina, J.B. Sullivan reared larvae from Bluejack Oak (*Quercus incana*) and Turkey Oak (*Q. laevis*).

OBSERVATION METHODS: Adults come readily to light, males in much larger numbers than females. We have no records of either coming to bait.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S3S4]

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

COMMENTS: This species is widely distributed in the state, if sparsely east of the Mountains, and makes use of a wide range of fairly common types of forest. It thus appears to be secure within the state.