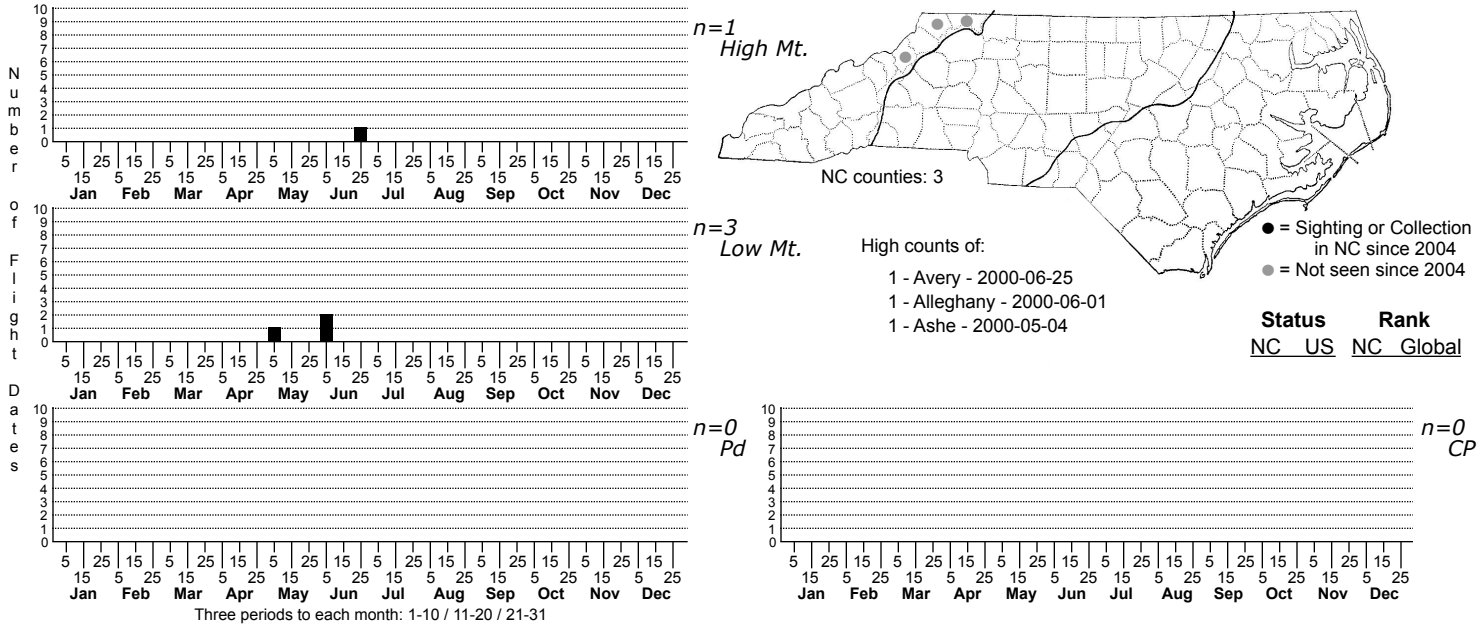
Tacparia detersata Pale Alder Moth



FAMILY: Geometridae SUBFAMILY: Ennominae TRIBE: Lithinini
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: A wholly North American genus containing three species, two of these occur in North Carolina. The third species ranges south to New Jersey. The genus was studied by Rupert (1949) and Ferguson (1973).

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Beadle and Leckie (2012)
ONLINE PHOTOS:
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Rupert (1949)
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Rupert (1949); Wagner et al. (2001)

ID COMMENTS: Sexes dimorphic, the females are darker in color than the males and have thinner antennal shafts. The species should not be confused with Gueneria, Cabera or Scopula, other whitish species which are considerably smaller and with differing patterns on white.

DISTRIBUTION: Recorded in North Carolina so far only from Avery, Alleghany, and Ashe Counties.

FLIGHT COMMENT: This species is single-brooded and on the wing in May-June.

HABITAT: Two of the collecting sites were located in riparian habitats along the New River. Another was from an upland area but with a stream located close by.

FOOD: Larvae recorded from Alder (Rupert, 1949; Wagner et al, 2001) which is consistent with known records in the mountains of North Carolina.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: Adults have been recorded from light traps. Wagner, 2001) indicates that adults may be disturbed from their resting spots by walking through alder thickets. We have no evidence that adults do or do not respond to bait.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR SU

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

COMMENTS: We have very few records for this species but too little collecting in alder habitats has been carried out early in the season to be certain about its status.