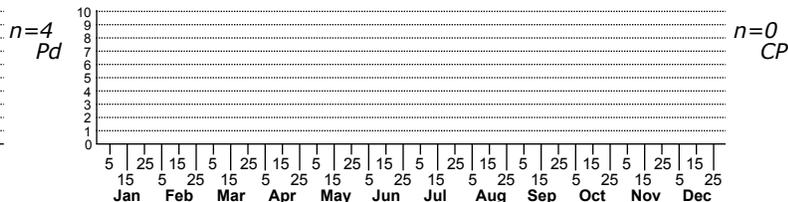
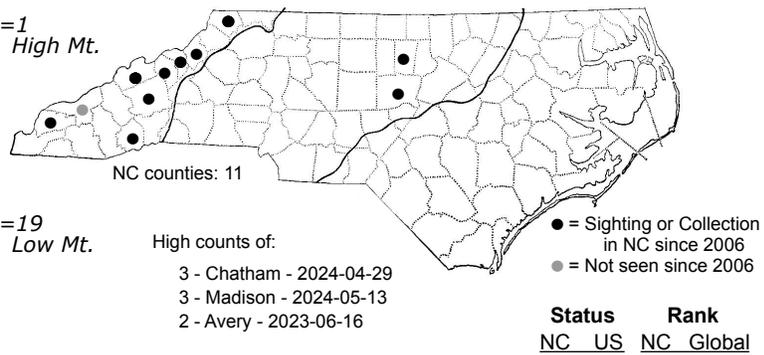
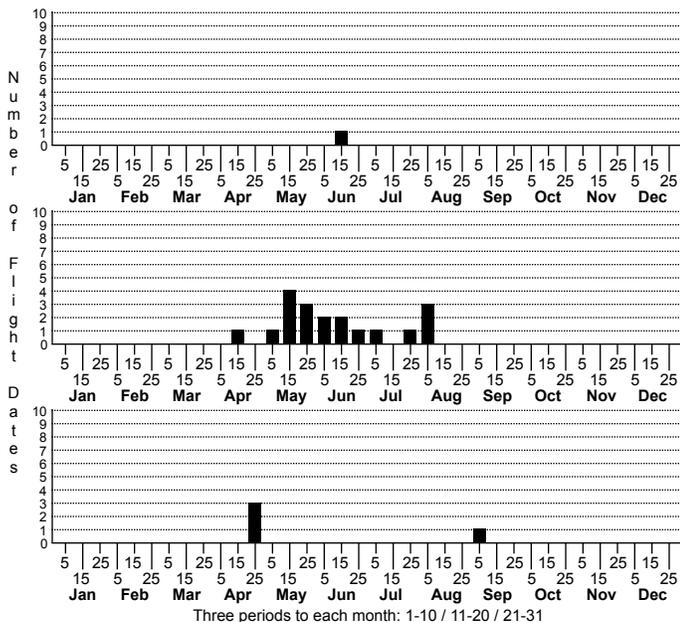


*Probole nepiasaria* Heath Probole



FAMILY: Geometridae SUBFAMILY: Ennominae TRIBE: Anagogini

TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS: There has been a long history of disagreement among taxonomists as to how many species are actually represented in the *amicaria* complex (see Tomon, 2008, for a review). Based on a comparison of specimens across the range of this complex, Tomon found no differences in genitalia or other structural characters and found no separation into distinct lineages based on analysis of mitochondrial DNA. Furthermore, he found that offspring of females of one morphological type could produce offspring belonging to other forms. Apart from populations of "*nepiasaria*", no geographic or phenological correlations could be found to justify the treatment of the different forms as distinct species. We mainly concur with Tomon's results and treat the forms previously described as "*alienaria*", "*nyssaria*", and "*amicaria*" as belonging to a single species, with the name *Probole amicaria* having apparent taxonomic priority (see Tomon, 2008). However, there are still sufficient ecological and biogeographic data to indicate that *Probole nepiasaria* may be distinct, despite its apparent lack of genitalic or mDNA differences from *P. amicaria*. Consequently, we continue to treat *nepiasaria* separately, particularly since some disjunct populations are of possible conservation concern.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS:

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: Our records all come from upland habitats with extensive thickets of heaths, including Mountain Laurel as well as blueberries or huckleberries. In the Blue Ridge, both dry and mesic habitats are used. Piedmont populations occur as disjuncts associated with heath thickets growing on steep north-facing slopes.

FOOD: Larvae feed on heaths, including azaleas (*Rhododendron*) and Mountain Laurel (*Kalmia*) (Wagner et al., 2001).

OBSERVATION\_METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR SNR [S2S3]

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: