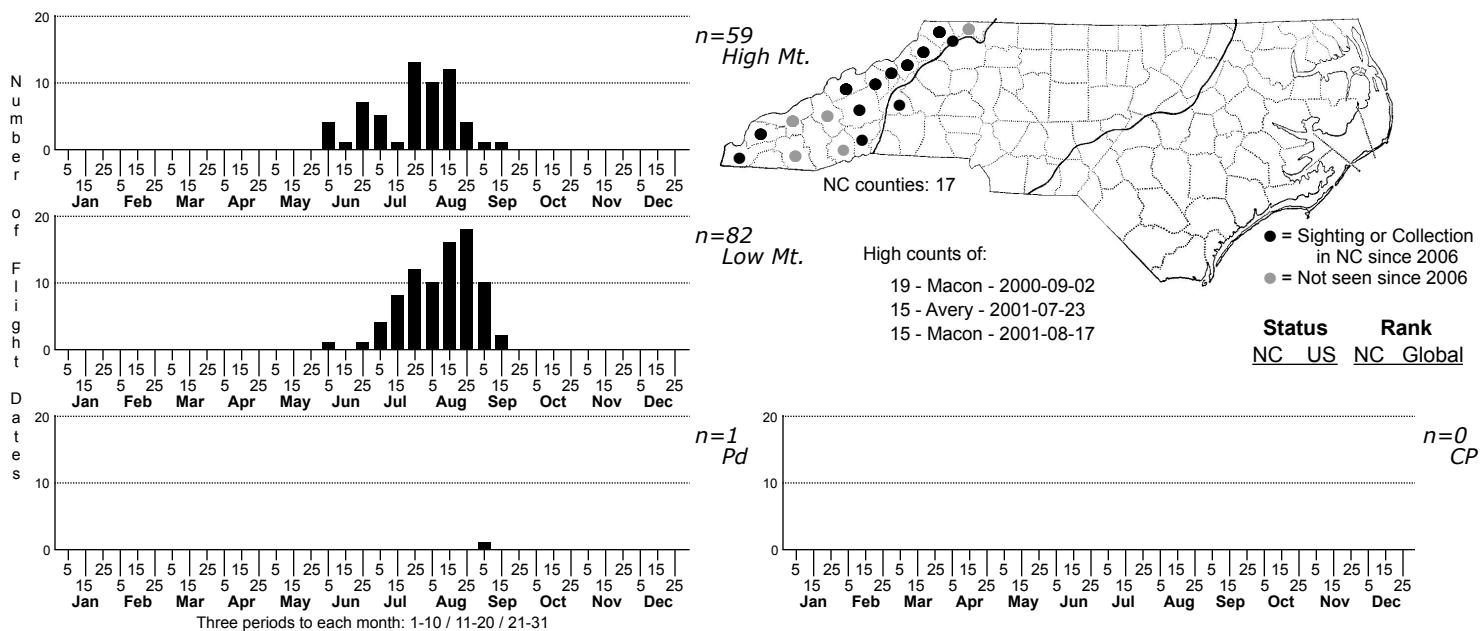


## *Caripeta divisata* Gray Spruce Looper Moth



FAMILY: Geometridae SUBFAMILY: Ennominae TRIBE: Ourapterygini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: A moderately sized New World genus with 15 species described from northern Mexico, Canada and the U.S. We have verified 3 species within the state; two more are reported from websites but we have not seen authenticated specimens.

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1948)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Wagner et al. (2001); Wagner (2005); Maeir et al. (2011)

ID COMMENTS: A medium-sized Geometrid with strongly marked brown-and-white forewings. Similar in size and pattern to other members of this genus but the forewings are dull brown without the red tint found in the others (Forbes, 1948). The hindwing is pale whitish. The color and pattern of this species as shown in the accompanying photographs should readily identify this species. Sexes are similar.

DISTRIBUTION: Essentially confined to the Mountains where it is found throughout and is certainly our commonest of the three species. Our one Piedmont record was from a site near the foot of the Blue Ridge.

FLIGHT COMMENT: This species is single brooded.

HABITAT: We have records from essentially the entire spectrum of conifer-containing habitats in the mountains, from low elevation sites dominated by pines and hemlocks to the sites over 6,000' dominated by spruce-fir forests.

FOOD: While some of our species of *Caripeta* have caterpillars that may feed on pines, this species is apparently more associated with hemlocks (*Tsuga*), spruce (*Picea*), and fir (*Abies*) (Wagner et al., 2001; Maeir et al., 2011). This range of foodplants is consistent with the habitats where we found this species in North Carolina, but we do not have any records for which evergreen species this species utilizes in our state.

OBSERVATION METHODS: Adults come readily to lights but should not be expected at bait.

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: Although confined to the mountains, it occurs throughout that region and occupies a wide range of elevations and habitats. It still appears to be quite common, although that may change as stands of Hemlocks disappear due to the onslaught of the Hemlock Wooly Adelgid. If this species feeds well on pines and spruce, it may remain secure within our state despite the loss of Hemlocks.