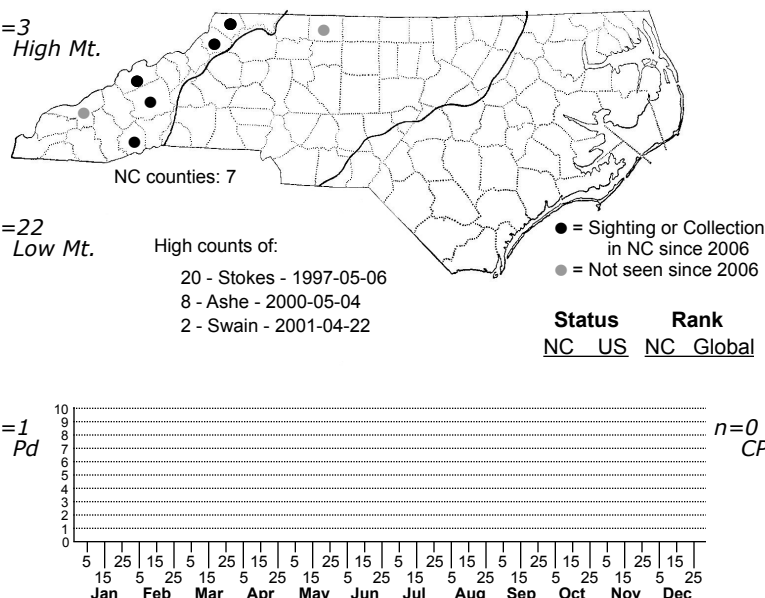
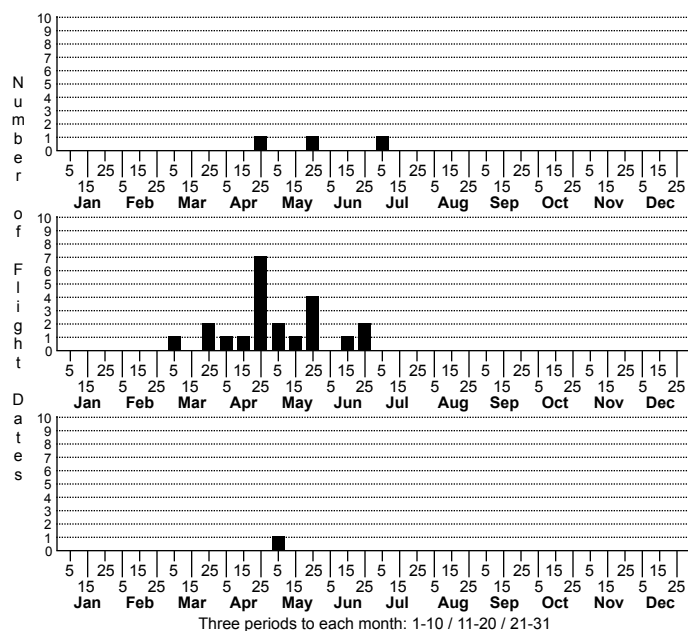


Lambdina canitiaria None



FAMILY: Geometridae SUBFAMILY: Ennominae TRIBE: Ourapterygini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of nine members of this genus that occur in North America, four of which have been recorded in North Carolina.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Rupert (1944); Forbes (1948)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: As described by Rupert (1944), canitiaria is similar to athasaria but smaller and with no yellow on the head and much less on the thorax and abdomen.

DISTRIBUTION: Appears to be restricted to the Mountains and to the high monadnocks of the Sauratown Range in the western Piedmont.

FLIGHT COMMENT: In New York, canitiaria is the earliest species of *Lambdina* to fly in the spring, appearing about three weeks before *L. athasaria* (Rupert, 1944). That does not appear to be the case in North Carolina, at least compared to *L. fervidaria* and *pellucidaria*, which fly as early as March. Only one flight period appears to exist in North Carolina populations.

HABITAT: All of our records come from mesic, montane forests, mostly riparian or cove forests at relatively low elevations but with one record from spruce-fir forest near the summit of Grandfather Mountain.

FOOD: Host plants are apparently not recorded. Habitats where this species has been recorded in North Carolina contain mixtures of northern hardwoods and hemlocks (*Tsuga*), with spruce (*Picea*) and Fraser Fir (*Abies fraseri*) also present at Grandfather Mountain.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: All of our few records were obtained using 15 watt blacklight traps. Like other members of this genus, it probably does not come to bait or to flowers.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNA SNR [SU]

STATE PROTECTION: Has no legal protection, although permits are required to collect it on state parks and other public lands. Not currently listed by the Natural Heritage Program

COMMENTS: If canitiaria is a valid species, then it appears to be fairly rare in North Carolina; it also appears to be poorly known throughout much of its global range. If it is found that canitiaria is primarily or exclusively a Hemlock-feeder, then there is a significant threat posed to its populations due to the decimation of Hemlock stands by the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. We recommend that it be added to the Natural Heritage Watch List until more has been documented concerning its taxonomic status, distribution, abundance, and host plant relationships in North Carolina.