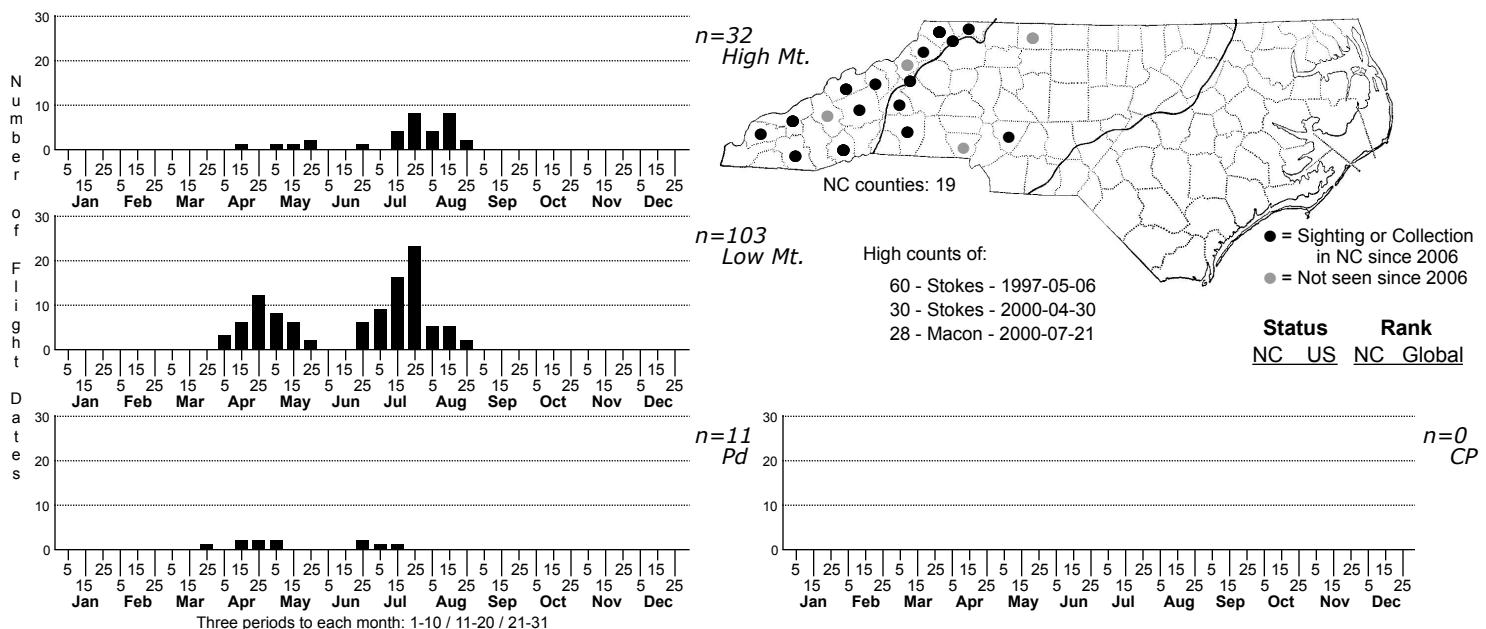


Antepione thisoaria Variable Antepione



FAMILY: Geometridae SUBFAMILY: Ennominae TRIBE: Ourapterygini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: Eight species have been described in the genus, which ranges from Canada south at least to Costa Rica. Most species are found in our western states but one ranges from Costa Rica to North Carolina and northward.

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1948, as *< i>Sabulodes thisoaria< /i>*); Ferris (2010)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Forbes (1948); Wagner et al. (2001); Wagner (2005)

ID COMMENTS: Sexes are highly variable, with different seasonal and sexual forms. Members of the spring brood are typically grayish brown or all pale, whereas in the summer brood, individuals are marked with bright yellow (Forbes, 1948). Males usually have a brown shade past the postmedian line, which is usually distinct; in the summer brood, males are typically two-toned. Females usually are more concolorous, with a less distinct postmedian but with one or two dark spots along that line at the inner margin (Forbes, 1948). Most forms have a distinct apical patch, but that is usually much more contrasting in the females.

DISTRIBUTION: Most of our records come from the Mountains but there are also records from two Monadnocks in the western Piedmont, both of which have habitats similar to those found in the Blue Ridge

FLIGHT COMMENT: Has two distinct broods per year

HABITAT: Our records come from a variety of montane habitats, including monadnock forests in the Piedmont, and both dry ridges -- including rock outcrops -- and mesic forests in the Mountains. The elevational range is also quite large, ranging from below 2,000 feet at Crowders Mountain in the Piedmont to over 5,000 feet in the Great Smokies, Great Balsams, and Grandfather Mountain.

FOOD: Larvae are reported from a wide variety of host plants including alder (*< i>Alnus< /i>*), apple (*< i>Malus< /i>*), cherry (*< i>Prunus< /i>*), ninebark (*< i>Physocarpus< /i>*), American Persimmon (*< i>Diospyros virginiana< /i>*), sumac (*< i>Rhus< /i>*), *< i>Viburnum< /i>*, and bittersweet (*< i>Celastrus< /i>*) (Wagner et al., 2001). We do not have any feeding records in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION METHODS: This species comes well to lights and may come to bait, although we have no records for it doing so. Occasionally flushed during the day.

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: This species occurs widely throughout the Mountains, extending also into the western Piedmont. It is associated with both a large range of host plants and habitats within that region and appears to be quite secure within the state.