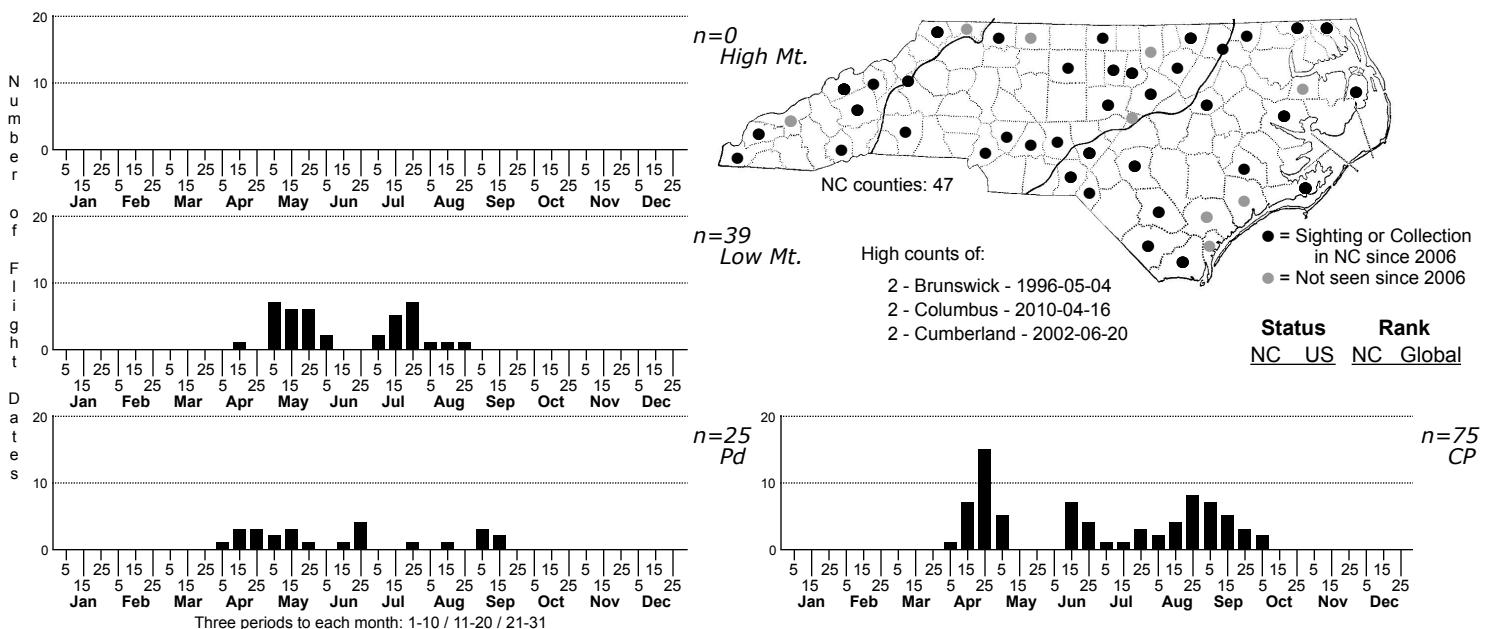


Dichorda iridaria Showy Emerald



FAMILY: Geometridae SUBFAMILY: Geometrinae TRIBE: Nemoriini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of four species in this genus that occur north of Mexico and the only one that occurs in the East (Ferguson, 1985). We probably have only the nominate subspecies over most of the state, but the southern form -- *Dichorda iridaria remotaria* -- reaches at least the Santee River basin in South Carolina (Ferguson, 1985) and could potentially turn up in our Coastal Plain.

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1948); Ferguson (1969, 1985)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION. IMMATURE STAGES: Ferguson (1969, 1985); Wagner et al. (2001); Wagner (2005).

ID COMMENTS: A medium-sized, vibrant emerald-green Geometrid, with two broad white stripes that run a slightly curved but even course across the wings. Nemoria species are similar in size but have narrower and often waved or dentate lines. The apex of the forewing is also more pointed in Dichorda and the costa is white with dark speckling towards the base. No terminal line is present, as in some of the Nemoria, and the fringes are white.

DISTRIBUTION: Occurs statewide, from the Barrier Islands to at least the Low Mountains; we have no records, however, from sites located above 4,000 ft.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Adults fly during most of the growing season, from March to September or October. Two main peaks or broods occur in the mountains, three in the Piedmont and Coastal Plain.

HABITAT: We have records from a wide range of open habitats, including maritime dunes, lake shorelines, sandhills, and old fields. We also have records from woodlands, or from at least along their edges.

FOOD: Larvae are stenophagous, feeding on Poison-ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*) and sumacs (*Rhus* spp.) (Wagner et al., 2001). We do not have any feeding records in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION METHODS: Comes well to blacklight and we have at least one record from 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: Broadly distributed, occupying a wide range of habitats, and feeding on common-to-abundant host plants, this species appears to be secure in North Carolina.