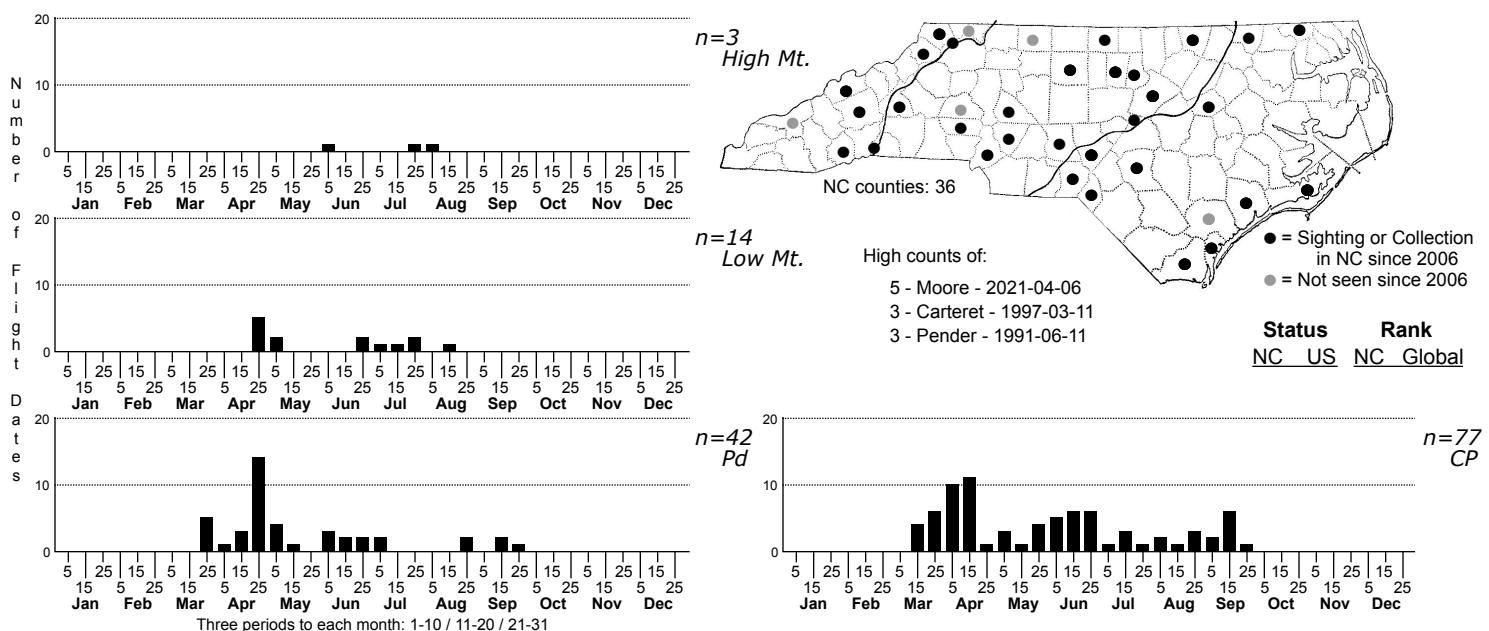


Chlorochlamys chloroleucaria Blackberry Looper Moth



FAMILY: Geometridae SUBFAMILY: Geometrinae TRIBE: Hemitheini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of four species in this genus recorded in North America and the only one found in North Carolina.

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

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

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Forbes (1948); Ferguson (1969, 1985); Wagner et al. (2001); Wagner (2005)

ID COMMENTS: A small gray-green or yellowish-green Emerald with white striae and fairly broad, cream-colored antemedian and postmedian lines. The postmedian on the forewing is fairly straight and even. The antemedian is convex on the forewing and missing on the hindwing. The fringes and costa are yellowish and the front is either yellowish or rusty-orange (Ferguson, 1985).

DISTRIBUTION: Probably occurs statewide, from the Barrier Islands to the High Mountains

FLIGHT COMMENT: Adults fly nearly continuously from March to September in the Coastal Plain; records from the Piedmont and Mountains are insufficient to determine a pattern.

HABITAT: Like our flower-feeding species of *Synchlora*, most of our records for *Chlorochlamys* come from open, forb-rich habitats. These include old fields and disturbed areas but also natural habitats such as maritime dunes and marshes; Longleaf Pine savannas, flatwoods, and sandhills; and lake and river shorelines. Very few of our records come from deep within closed-canopy forests, especially where herbaceous species are scarce.

FOOD: Larvae are polyphagous, feeding on the flowers and berries of many species of forbs and shrubs. Blackberries (<i>Rubus</i> spp.) are commonly used (Forbes, 1984), but Ferguson (1985) and Wagner (2005) list many species of composites as well as representatives of several other families. In North Carolina, our only feeding record is from Narrowleaf Sunflower (<i>Helianthus angustifolius</i>).

OBSERVATION METHODS: Comes well to blacklights but we have no records from bait or flowers.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S5]

STATE PROTECTION: Has no legal protection, although permits are required to collect it on state parks and other public lands.

COMMENTS: This species is widespread, polyphagous on a extensive range of common plants, and occupies a broad set of habitats, including disturbed areas. Consequently, it appears to be secure within our state.