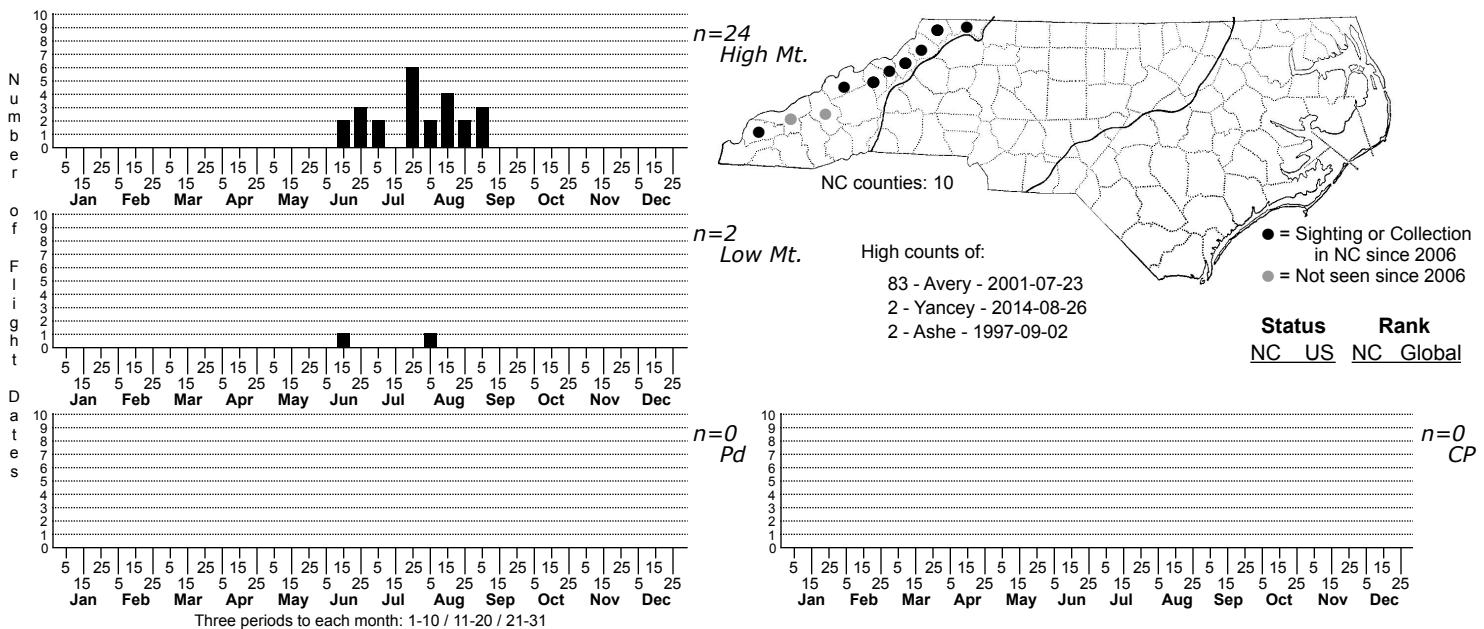


Dysstroma citrata Dark Marbled Carpet



FAMILY: Geometridae SUBFAMILY: Larentiinae TRIBE: Hydriomenini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: A large genus found worldwide (Europe, China, India, Japan, Argentina), usually found at high altitudes. Three species reach North Carolina.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1948)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Wagner et al. (2001)

ID COMMENTS: Unlikely to be confused with *D. hersiliata* which has the notch in the forewing band and is much smaller. Most confusion exists between this species and *D. truncata*. Overall, the maculation is much lighter in *citrata* than *truncata*. The subapical band lacks the distinct indentation toward the thorax, the hindwing is fairly uniformly fuscous, not two-toned as in *D. truncata* and not with a pearly white outer section; according to Forbes (1948), the postmedian on the hindwing is also retracted at the cell in *truncata*, but is straighter in *citrata*. Sexes are similar.

DISTRIBUTION: Confined to higher areas in our mountains

FLIGHT COMMENT: There may simply be one extended brood but the flight period is quite long.

HABITAT: Most of our records come from elevations above 4,000 ft, but with a few from elevations between 3,000 ft and 4,000 ft. All of these sites support stands of mesic forests, including Northern Hardwoods at most sites and Spruce-fir Forest at some. This species is often but not always found where *D. truncata* has not been recorded.

FOOD: Larvae are reported by Forbes (1948) to be general feeders on low plants. We suspect the foodplant requirements are more specific than that and more information needs to be obtained from observations made in the wild to determine what species they rely on in North Carolina. Among the hosts listed by Wagner et al. (2011) are alder (*Alnus*), strawberry (*Fragaria*), cinquefoil (*Potentilla*), currant (*Ribes*), rose (*Rosa*), blackberry (*Rubus*), willow (*Salix*), and blueberry (*Vaccinium*).

OBSERVATION METHODS: Adults come readily to lights, we have no evidence they respond to bait.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S2S3]

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

COMMENTS: Populations of this species are limited to the highest elevations in our mountains, where they are likely to be vulnerable to the effects of global climate change. More information is needed on their host plant use in North Carolina and on their exact habitat requirements before an accurate assessment can be made of their conservation status.