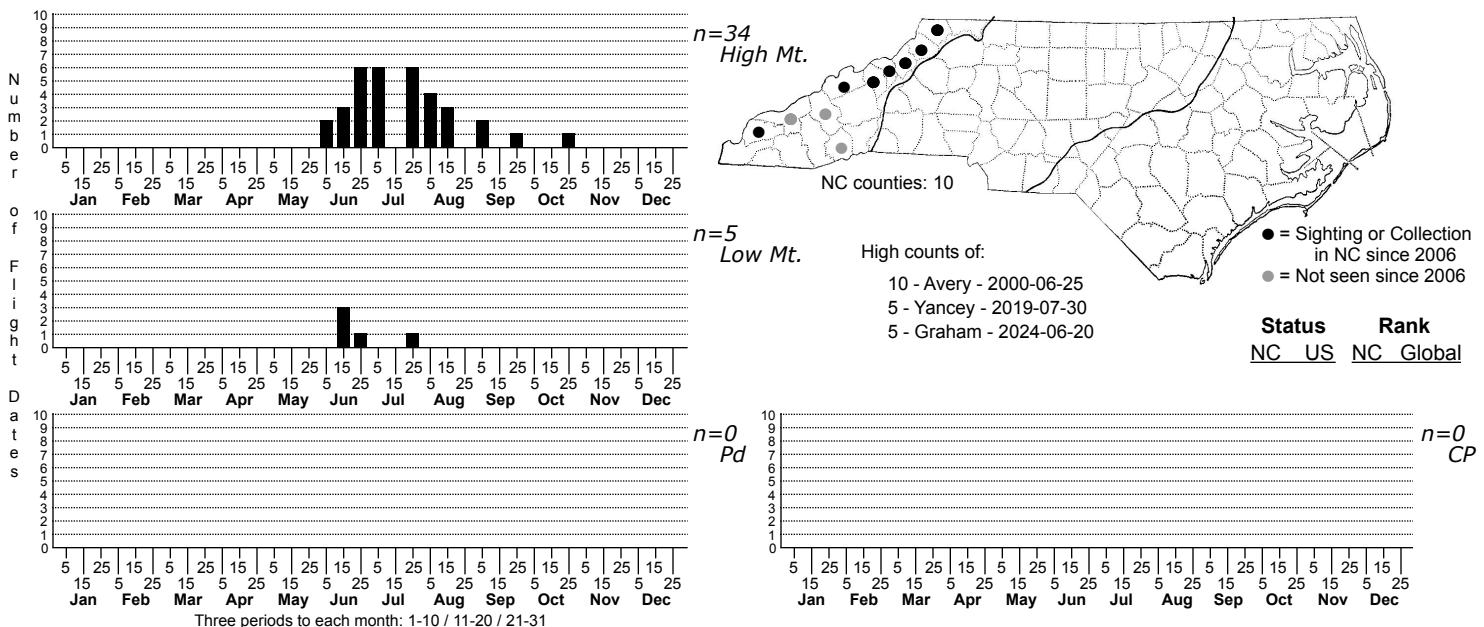


Dysstroma truncata Marbled Carpet



FAMILY: Geometridae SUBFAMILY: Larentiinae TRIBE: Hydriomenini

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

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1948)

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

ID COMMENTS: Most confusion exists between this species and *D. citrata*. Overall the maculation is much darker than in *D. citrata* and the subapical band has a distinct, but small indentation toward the base of the wing. The hindwing is two-toned with the outer part pearly white (uniformly fuscus in *D. citrata*); according to Forbes 1948, the postmedian on the hindwing is retracted at the cell. It is a much larger species than *D. hersiliata*, which also has a distinctive inward tooth on the postmedian of the forewing. There are two forms, one in which the median area of the wing is filled with white. Perches with wings open or closed. Sexes are similar.

DISTRIBUTION: Like the other species in the genus, it is found at higher altitudes on most mountains. Curiously it is much more restricted than *D. hersiliata* which appears to be restricted to habitats containing *Ribes*.

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

HABITAT: All of our records come from forested areas in the High Mountains, above 4,000 ft in elevation. Although many come from areas where stands of Spruce-fir Forests still persist, others come from areas lacking that habitat type and where only Northern Hardwoods or other stands of high elevation hardwood-dominated forests are present.

FOOD: Larvae are polyphagous, feeding on both forbs and woody shrubs (Wagner et al., 2001). Among the reported hosts are alder (*Alnus*), strawberry (*Fragaria*), Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*), plantain (*Plantago*), currant (*Ribes*), blackberry (*Rubus*), willow (*Salix*), and blueberry (*Vaccinium*) (Forbes, 1948; Covell, 1984; Robinson et al., 2010).

OBSERVATION METHODS: Adults come readily to lights and would not be expected to be attracted to bait.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR SNR [S3S4]

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.