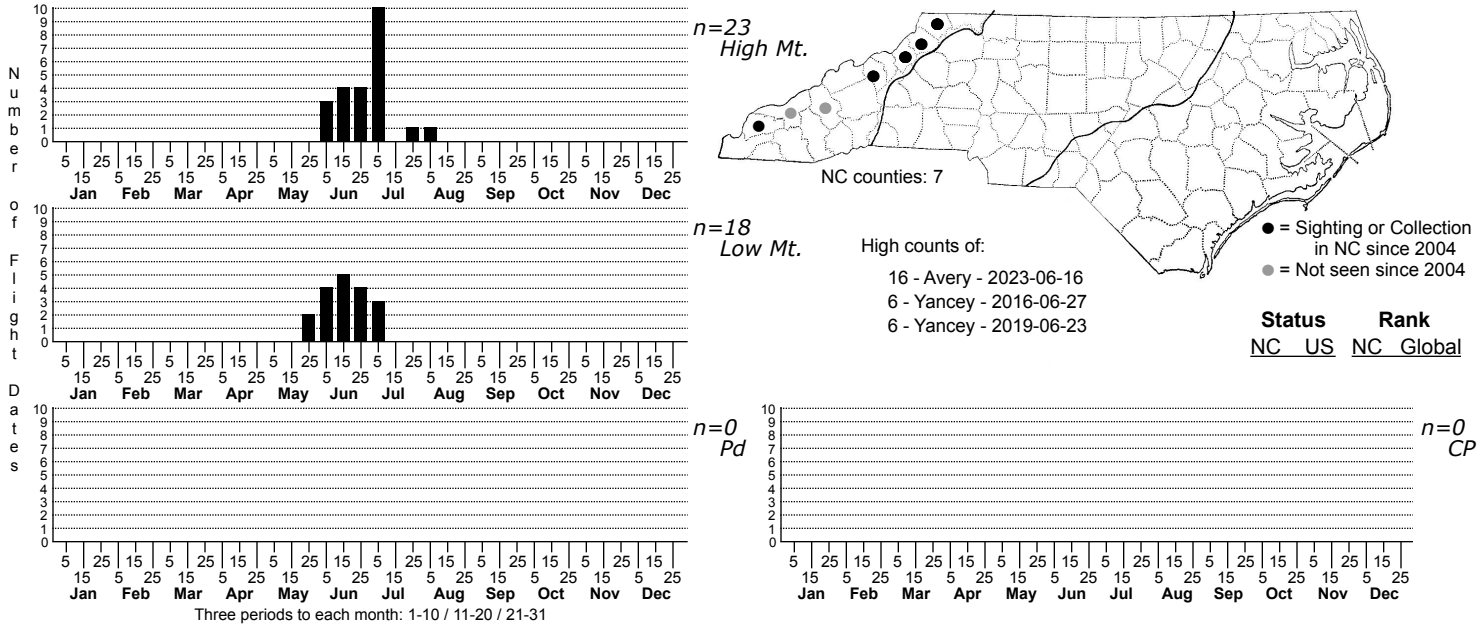
Dysstroma hersiliata Orange-barred Carpet Moth



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); Beadle and Leckie (2012)
ONLINE PHOTOS:
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1948)
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Forbes (1948); Wagner et al. (2001)

ID COMMENTS: Although highly variable in forewing pattern, this is the easy member of the genus to identify. It is smaller than the other two species, has very short palpi, and the subapical band has a very sharp, long indentation toward the thorax; in comparison, there is only a very short indentation in D. truncata and none in D. citrata. Sexes are similar. Perches with wings open or closed.

DISTRIBUTION: Restricted to higher altitudes and becoming quite common around 4,000 ft and extending to the tops of most mountains

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

HABITAT: All of our records come from high elevation (>3,000 ft) stands of mesic forest, including Rich Cove Forests, Northern Hardwoods, and Spruce-fir Forests, all habitats where our species of Ribes occur.

FOOD: Larvae appear to feed primarily or exclusively on currants and gooseberries (Ribes spp.) (Forbes, 1948; Wagner et al., 2001). Which of the three species in that genus that occur in North Carolina are favored is unknown.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: Adults swarm at lights, response to bait unrecorded but likely negative.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G4G5 S2S3

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

COMMENTS: Although locally abundant at some sites, this species is restricted to high elevations in the mountains, where it appears to be a strong specialist in terms of both host plants and associations with mesic forests. As such, it is likely to be vulnerable to the effects of global climate change.