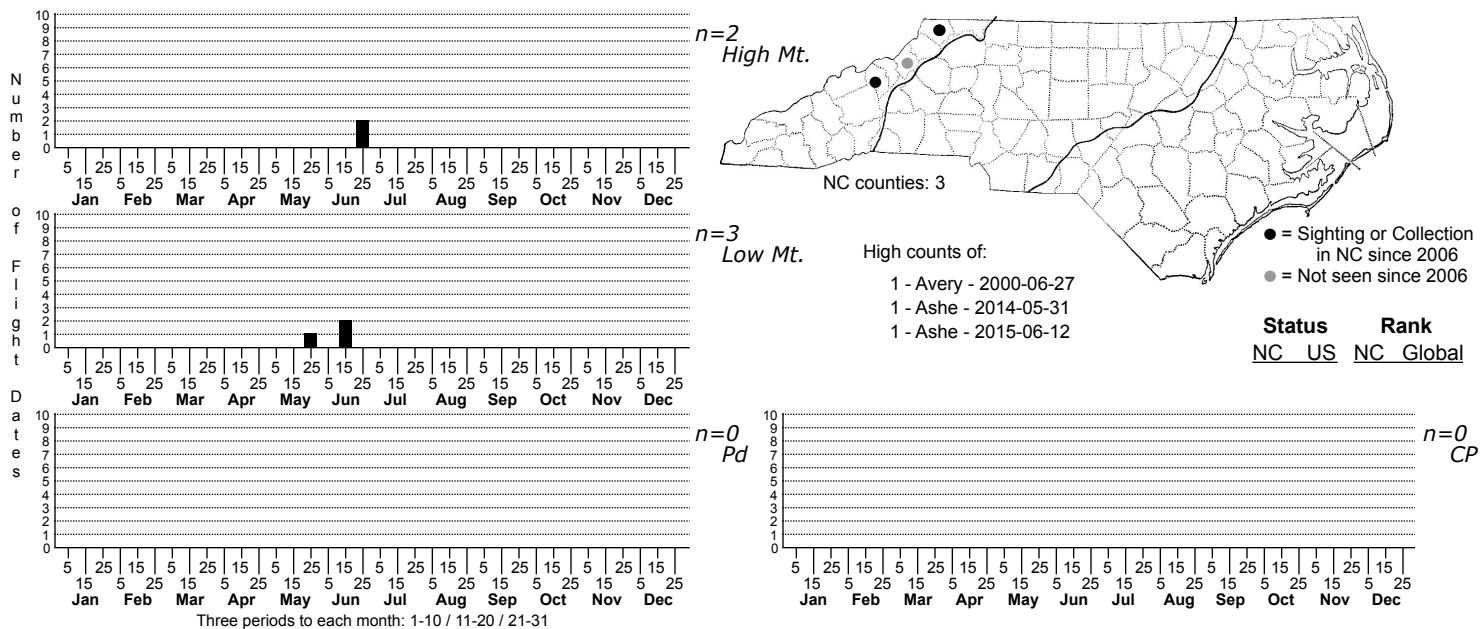


Eulithis propulsata Currant Eulithis



FAMILY: Geometridae SUBFAMILY: Larentiinae TRIBE: Hydriomenini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of fourteen species in this genus that occur in North America north of Mexico (Pohl et al., 2016), five of which have been recorded in North Carolina

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1954, as *Lygris propulsata*)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Wagner et al. (2002)

ID COMMENTS: A pale yellowish-brown, broad-winged Geometrid with somewhat falcate forewings. Similar to several other species of Eulithis in ground color and in the median area darkened on the margins but pale in the middle. Differs from diversilineata and gracilineata in having a waved postmedian rather than one with a sharp, elongated tooth. Differs from yellowish forms of molliculata in having an antemedian that is sharply angled at the base of the cell instead of evenly rounded (Forbes, 1948). Hindwings are pale yellow or whitish.

DISTRIBUTION: Recorded in the Mountains at elevations greater than 3,500 ft.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Univoltine, with adults flying in May and June.

HABITAT: Our few records are from high elevation (>3,500 ft) mesic forests, including Rich Cove Forests, Northern Hardwoods, and Spruce-fir Forests, all habitats that support populations of *Ribes* species, which in our state are also restricted to high elevations.

FOOD: Larvae are apparently stenophagous, feeding on currants (*Ribes* sp.) (Wagner et al., 2002). Forbes (1948) also lists poplar (*Populus*) and willow (*Salix*), which require confirmation. We do not have any feeding records in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION METHODS: Comes to blacklights but how well is unknown.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 S1S2

STATE PROTECTION: Listed as Significantly Rare by the Natural Heritage Program. That designation does not confer any legal protection, however, although permits are required to collect it on state parks and other public lands.

COMMENTS: We have very few records for this northern species in North Carolina. It appears to be a highly restricted, host plant and habitat specialist and its mesic, high elevation habitats are likely to be highly threatened due to climate change. This species, consequently, appears to be at high risk of extirpation in North Carolina.