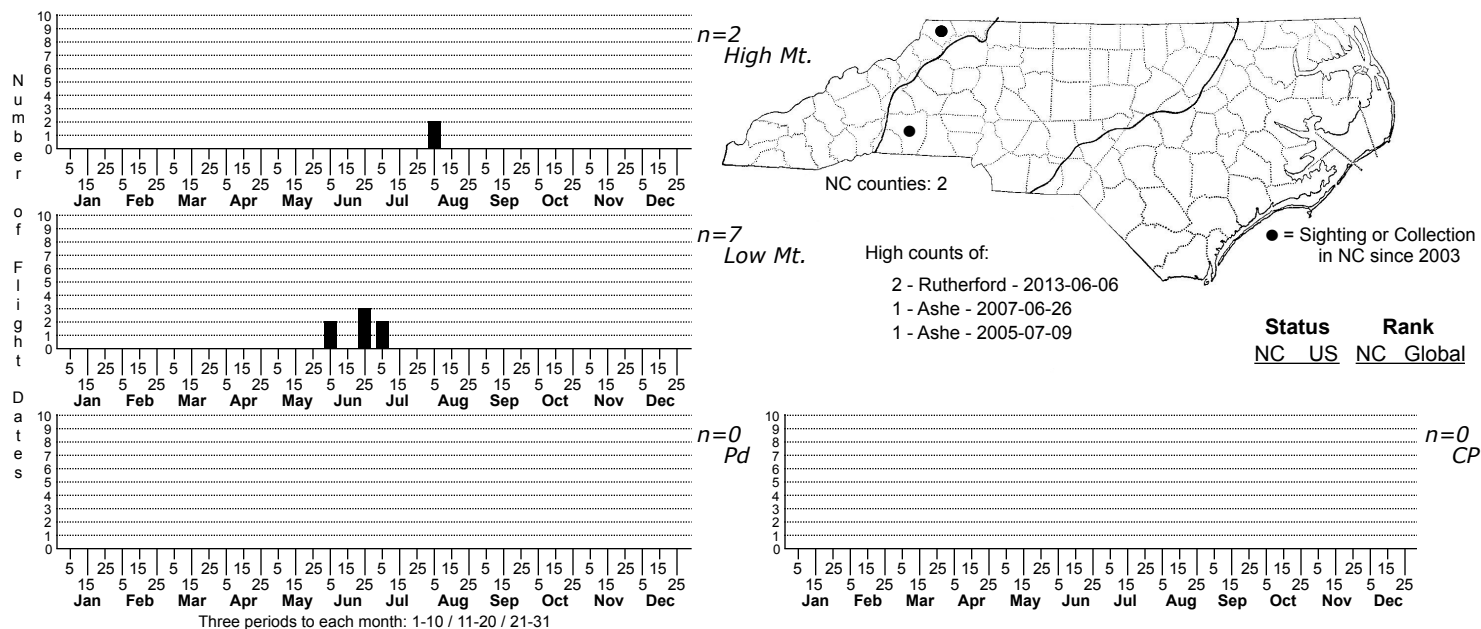


Eulithis molliculata Dimorphic Eulithis Moth



FAMILY: Geometridae SUBFAMILY: Larentiinae TRIBE: Hydrimenini

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: Covell (1984); Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS: MPG, BugGuide, BAMONA, BOLD

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1948)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: McGuffin (1971)

ID COMMENTS: A medium-sized, dimorphically colored moth with broad, falcate wings. Males are reddish- to chocolate-brown but females are ochre to yellow. The wings are crossed by a number of narrow, outwardly curving and somewhat waved lines; lines in the antemedian, median, and subterminal areas are bordered with white frosting and there is a darker patch of the ground color located just below the apex of the forewing along the outer margin. Hindwings are somewhat paler but possess similar fine lines as found on the forewing.

DISTRIBUTION: Our records all come from the Mountains

FLIGHT COMMENT: Our records come from June and July

HABITAT: We have records from two sites that have populations of Ninebark, one from wetlands along the New River in an area where Amphibolite -- a mafic rock formation -- is common, the other from upland glades in the southern foothills of the Blue Ridge, again in an area with mafic rock formations.

FOOD: McGuffin (1971, 1977) and Wheeler and Hoebeke (1985) reported that the larvae feed on Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*)

OBSERVATION_METHODS: Comes to light, but to what extent is unclear, at least in North Carolina

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S2S3]

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

COMMENTS: Considered rare by Forbes (1948) and appears to be a strong habitat specialist, associated with a larval host plant that itself is fairly restricted in its occurrence to a narrow range of habitat types. However, the moth has been found at two widely separated locations and its host plant occurs over an even wider area, extending across the Piedmont. Given a record from Arkansas along the Mississippi River (McGuffin, 1977), it is not out of the question that this species could occur at low elevation sites in the Piedmont in association with its host plant.