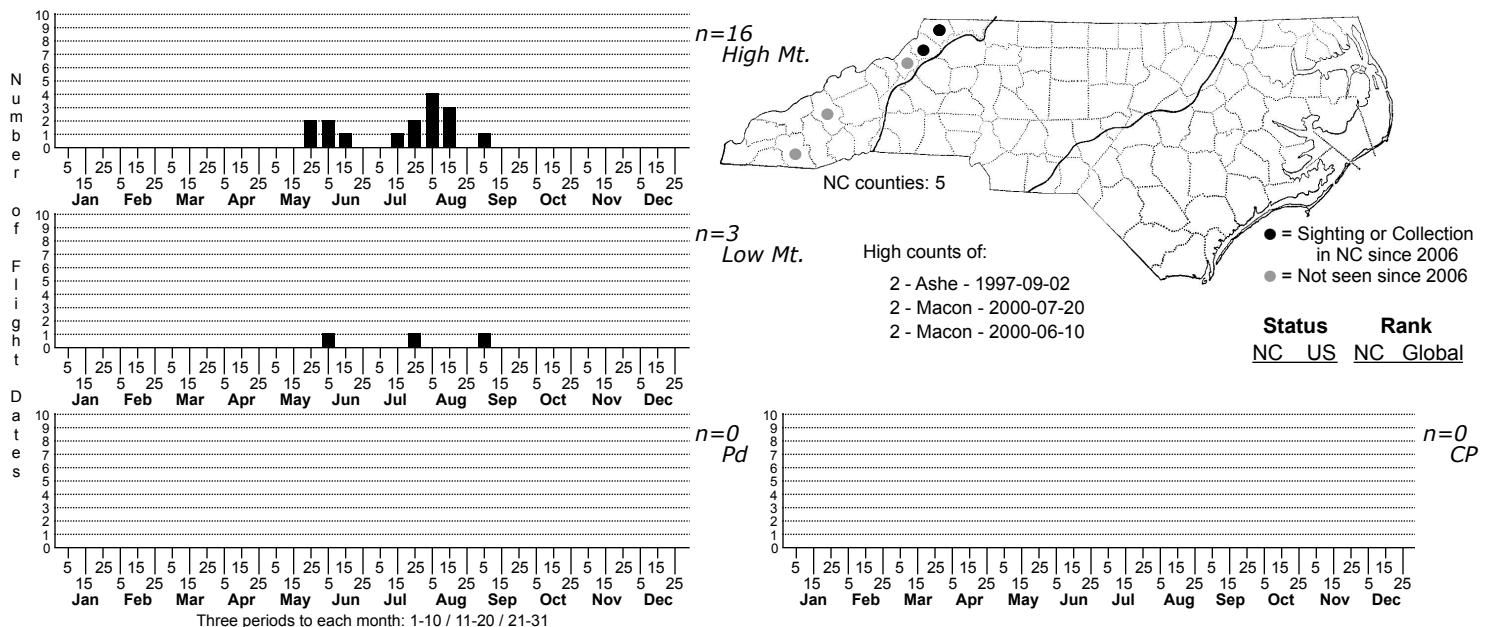


Spargania magnoliata Double-banded Carpet



FAMILY: Geometridae SUBFAMILY: Larentiinae TRIBE: Hydriomenini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: This is a very large genus in the Neotropics with likely well over 100 species. In North America, five have been recorded and only one occurs in North Carolina.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984); Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1948)

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

ID COMMENTS: Adults have green forewings that perfectly match the mossy habitats found at high elevations; pinned specimens, however, rapidly lose the greenish tinge. Sexes are similar. Adults are not likely to be confused with any other species in our area.

DISTRIBUTION: Restricted to the Mountain in North Carolina

FLIGHT COMMENT: There are two broods, May and July with a few stragglers in intervening months.

HABITAT: Open areas in mountain hardwood habitat where the foodplants, *Oenothera* and Fireweed grow. Rarely found below 3000 feet.

FOOD: Larvae are stenophagous, reportedly feeding on evening-primrose (*Oenothera*) and Fireweed (*Chamaenerion angustifolium*) (Wagner et al., 2001).

OBSERVATION METHODS: Adults come readily to lights but not to bait nor are they active during the day.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR SNR [S2S3]

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

COMMENTS: This species depends on open, herbaceous habitats in the Mountains, at least some of which may be naturally maintained by fire. Increased frequency of wildfires in the Mountains resulting from global climate change may help expand its habitats. However, as a species adapted to cool, montane habitats, increased warming may also lead to its elimination from some areas, particularly at lower elevations.