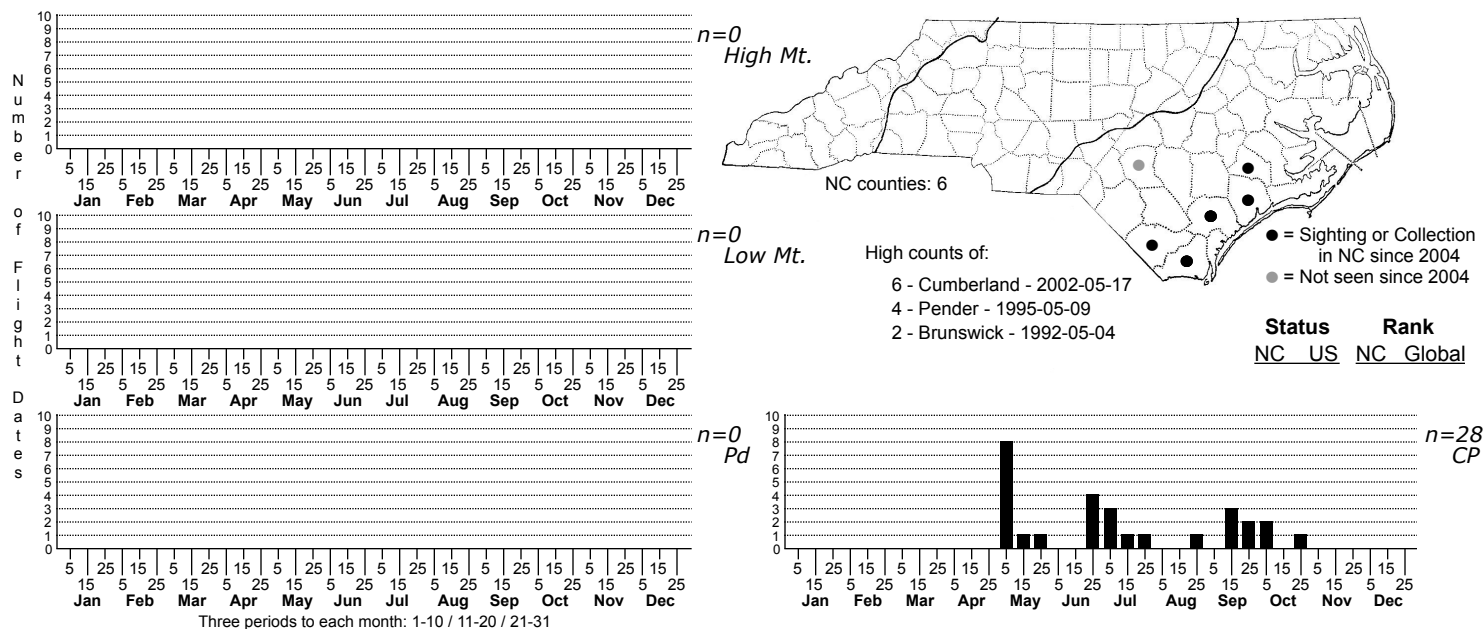


## *Eubaphe meridiana* Little Beggar Moth



FAMILY: Geometridae SUBFAMILY: Larentiinae TRIBE: Eudulini

TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS: One of six species in this genus that occur in North America, two of which have been recorded in North Carolina

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1948, as *Eudule meridiana*)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: A small, delicate, yellow Geometrid with dusky spots. Similar but smaller than the more common *Eubaphe mendica* (wingspan = 30mm). *Meridiana* has smaller, more distinct spots, with the submarginal spot absent. The ground color is also deeper yellow and shaded with orange (Forbes, 1948).

DISTRIBUTION: Appears to be restricted to the southern Coastal Plain in North Carolina, although its range extends as far north as Long Island (Forbes, 1948).

FLIGHT COMMENT: Our records suggest that there may be three flight periods, in spring, summer, and fall.

HABITAT: All of our records come from Longleaf Pine habitats, or from sites located close to such habitats. Nearly all come from wet savannas or sandhill seeps.

FOOD: Apparently not recorded. Its close relative, *Eubaphe mendica*, has been recorded to feed on both violets and maple (Forbes, 1948, citing McDunnough for the record on maple).

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: Appears to come moderately well to blacklights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G4 S2S3

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: This species appears to be strongly associated with wet Longleaf Pine habitats in North Carolina, primarily savannas but also sandhill seeps. Although there is still much to be learned about its host plants and other aspects of its life history, its tie to a imperiled habitat type indicates that it should be considered to be of significant conservation concern.