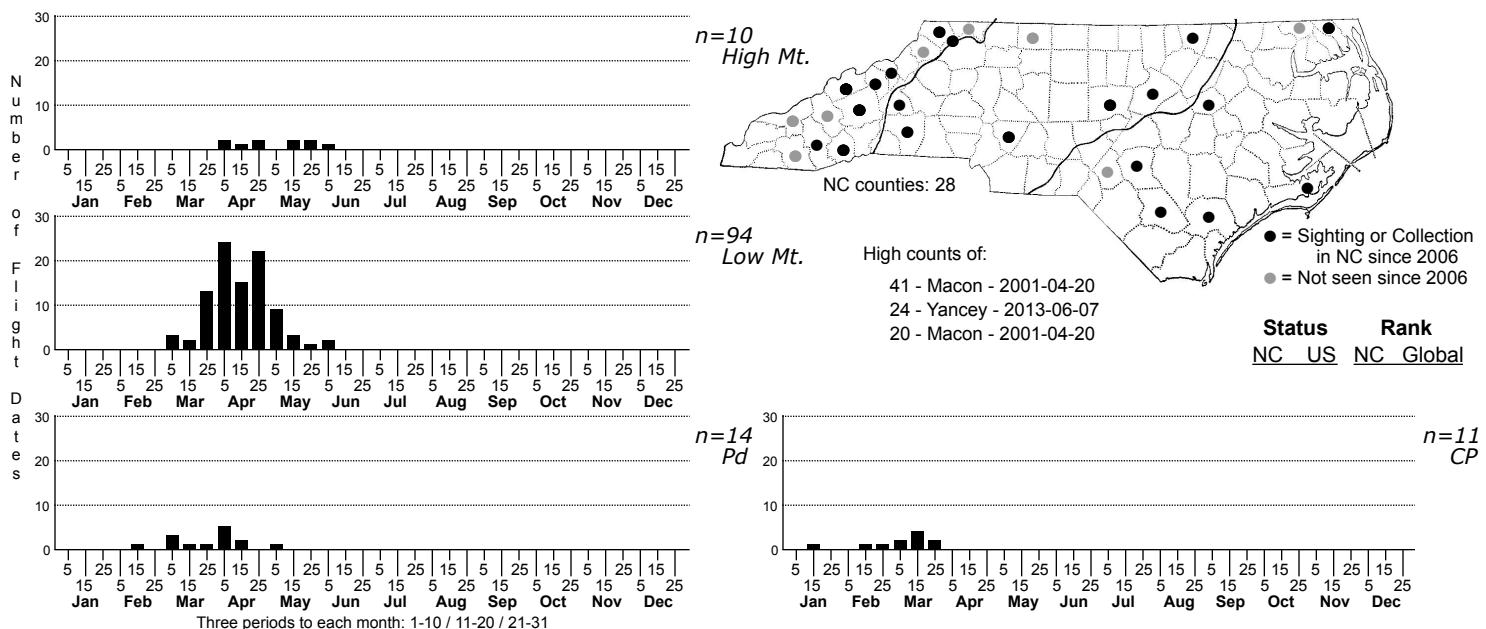


Cladara limitaria Mottled Gray Carpet



FAMILY: Geometridae SUBFAMILY: Larentiinae TRIBE: Lobophorini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: This genus currently includes two species that are found in North America, with both occurring in North Carolina. *C. anguilineata* is a previously described species that has been a source of confusion with *C. limitaria* since it is very similar in external morphology. Recent studies indicate that the mtDNA variation and genitalic morphology of *C. anguilineata* is indistinguishable from that of *C. limitaria*, and it has since been considered to be a color form and junior synonym of *C. limitaria*.

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: *C. limitaria* has a highly variable wing pattern that consists of varying amounts of green, black and whitish patterning, along with brown or blackish dusting. Individuals can range from being predominately brown to being boldly marked with green, black and whitish marks.

DISTRIBUTION: *C. limitaria* is found throughout most of the forested regions of the U.S., including Alaska, and in southern Canada from British Columbia eastward to Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

FLIGHT COMMENT: This species produces a single brood with the adults flying for 3-4 weeks at any given location. The adults mostly fly from March through June in different areas of the range, with northern and mountainous populations flying relatively late in the year. The larvae typically reach the pupal stage by July or early August. Populations in the Blue Ridge of North Carolina reach a peak in breeding in April and breed a week or two later than adults in the Piedmont and Coastal Plain.

HABITAT: Local populations are generally found in forests where conifers are well represented.

FOOD: Larvae reportedly feed on a variety of conifers, including firs (*Abies*), hemlocks (*Tsuga*), larches (*Larix*), pines (*Pinus*), and spruces (*Picea*) (Wagner et al., 2001). We do not have any feeding records in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The species comes readily to lights but not to baits.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S4S5]

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

COMMENTS: Found here and there usually as singletons in the Coastal Plain. In the mountains it can be quite common and often flying on cold nights when few other species are active.