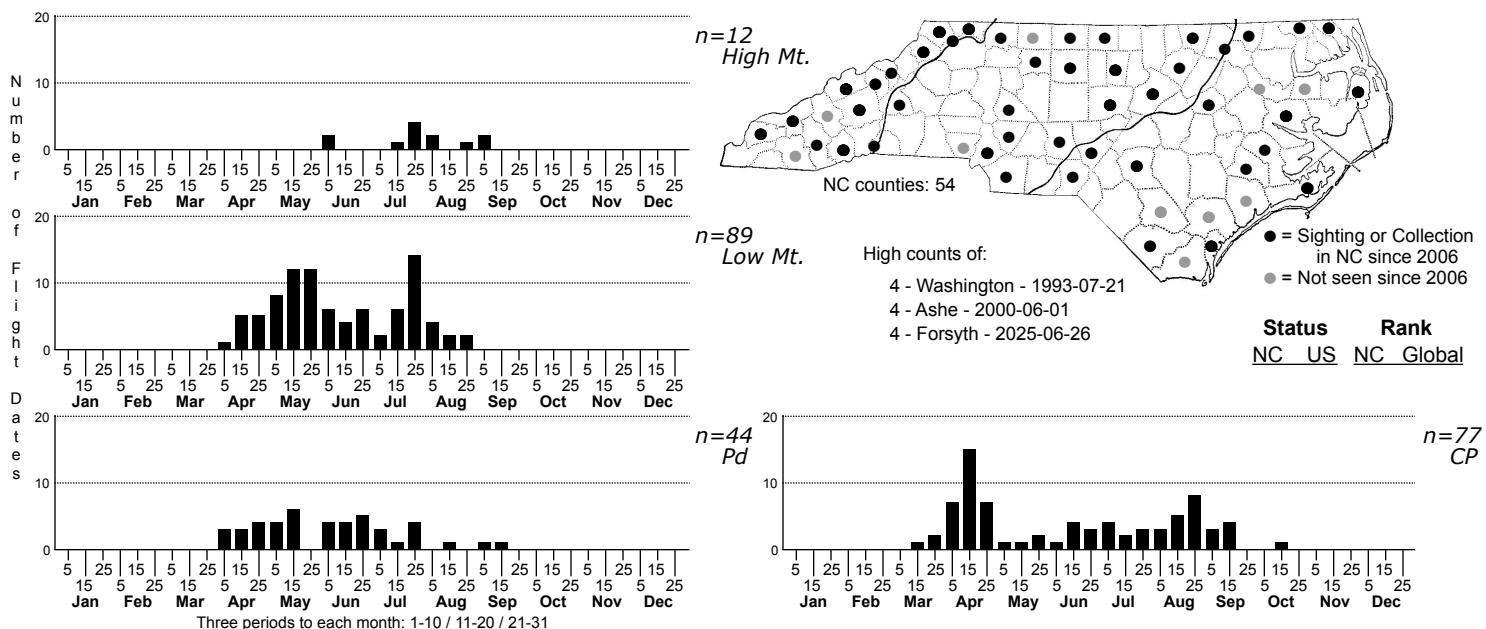


Dyspteris abortivaria Badwing Moth



FAMILY: Geometridae SUBFAMILY: Larentiinae TRIBE: Lobophorini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: A genus of some 22 species; mostly neotropical but with a single species in the US, which occurs throughout 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: The green color is unique, as is the reduction in the hindwings. Numerous Nemorines are greenish but none have the almost aquamarine color of this species. Sexes are similar.

DISTRIBUTION: Probably occurs statewide

FLIGHT COMMENT: Apparently there are two to three broods of adults over much of the state.

HABITAT: Our records come from virtually all grape-containing habitats in the state, which range from open beach dunes on the Barrier Islands to bottomland forests to mountain ridges.

FOOD: Larva reportedly feed on grapes (<i>Vitis</i> spp.), Muscadine (<i>Muscadina rotundifolia</i>), and Virginia Creeper (<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>) (Forbes, 1948; Wagner et al., 2001). We do not have any feeding records in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION METHODS: Adults come readily to light but not to bait. Adults are often seen during the day at damp or streamside sites. Adults are often found around puddles or small rivulets imbibing liquid, which is subsequently shot out of the anus in an obvious stream. The function of this apparent cleansing behavior is unknown.

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: With its broad range across the state, its use of common host plants, and its wide range of habitat associations, this species appears to be quite secure in North Carolina.