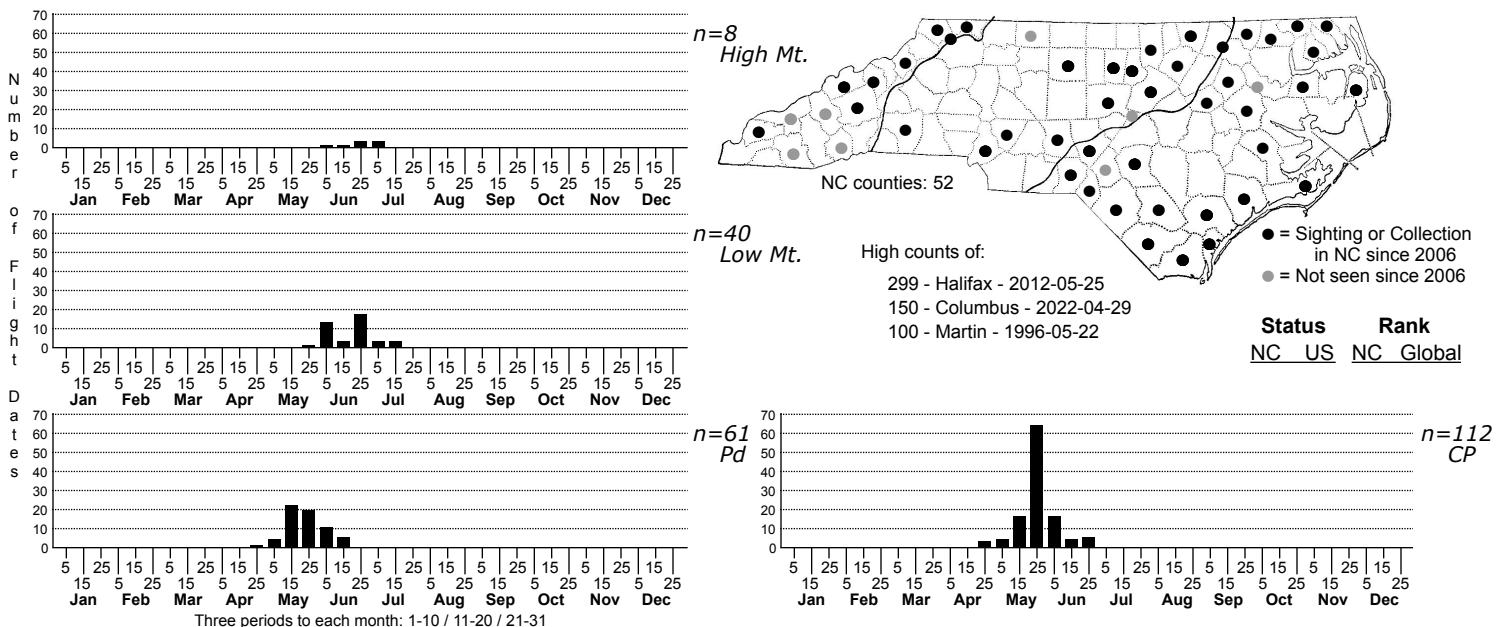


Malacosoma disstria Forest Tent Caterpillar Moth



FAMILY: Lasiocampidae SUBFAMILY: Lasiocampinae TRIBE: Lasiocampini
TAXONOMIC COMMENTS:

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS:

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: Woodlands and Forests (Wagner, 2005). North Carolina records come from hardwood forests, ranging from Maritime Forests to Northern Hardwoods.

FOOD: Larvae are highly polyphagous, feeding on many hardwood trees and shrubs (Wagner, 2005). In swamp forests that are flooded during the winter, one of its natural control agents -- a Tachinid fly -- is greatly reduced and the populations of the moth can reach defoliating proportions. Water Tupelo (*Nyssa aquatica*) is particularly heavily attacked, becoming stripped of leaves over thousands of acres. In North Carolina, Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) is a frequent host, but we also have records of larvae feeding on maple (*Acer*) and oak (*Quercus*), and doubtless many other hosts are used in our state.

OBSERVATION METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S5]

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

COMMENTS: