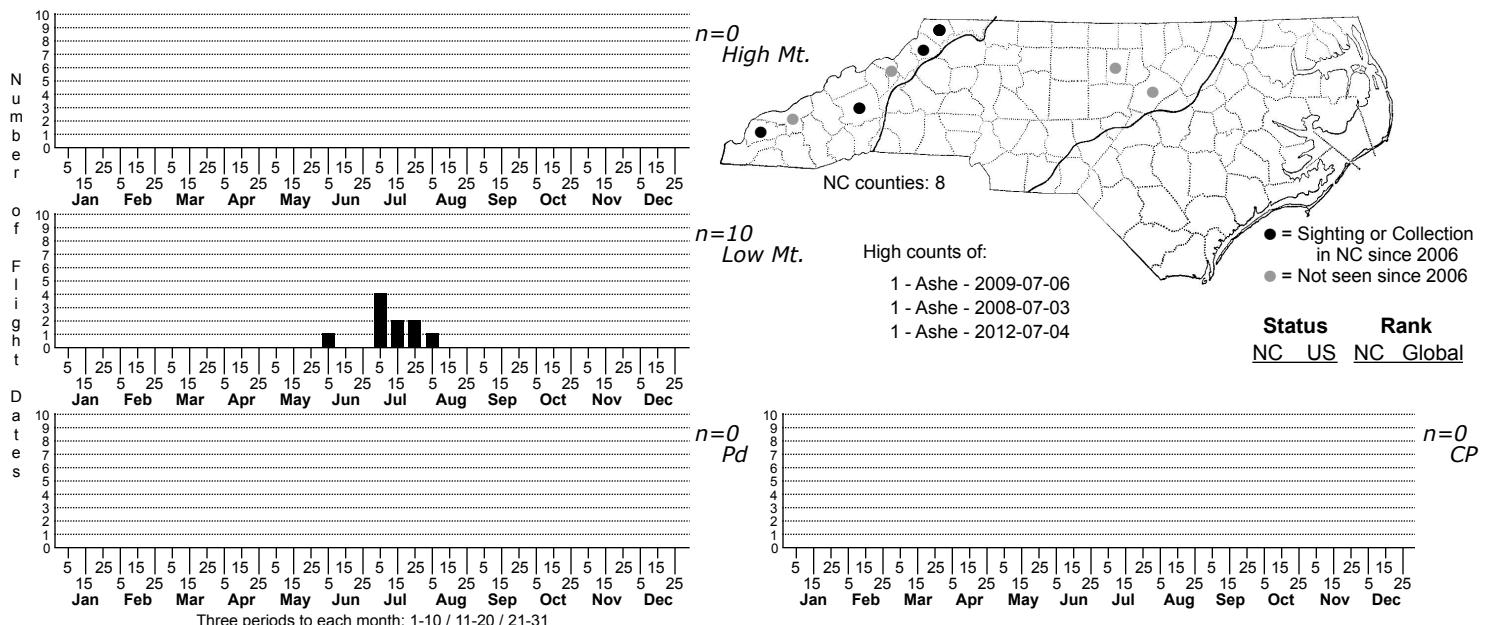


Lintneria eremita Hermit Sphinx



FAMILY: Sphingidae SUBFAMILY: Sphinginae TRIBE: Sphingini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: Long a member of the genus *Sphinx*, this species is now included in *Lintneria* along with 4 other species in North America and about 15 from the Neotropics. Larval characters unite the genus.

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1948); Hodges (1971); Tuttle (2007)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Forbes (1948); Wagner (2005); Tuttle (2007)

ID COMMENTS: A dark, heavily streaked sphinx moth. A black triangular patch at the base of the hindwing and two well-developed bands on the hindwing distinguish this species; photographs should show a portion of the hindwings should be sufficient to separate this species from *Paratrea* and other species with heavy markings and a pale discal spot on the forewings. Sexes are similar.

DISTRIBUTION: Records from the Piedmont all appear to be historic (from Brimley, 1938). Recent records are all from New River State Park in the northern mountains.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Single brooded in the summer.

HABITAT: Normally found in wooded areas although the foodplants often grow in more open areas such as roadsides, power cuts and old fields. Our records come primarily from riparian habitats.

FOOD: Larvae are oligophagous, feeding on a wide range of sage and mint species as well as others in the mint family, Lamiaceae (Wagner, 2005). In North Carolina, there are iNaturalist records for larvae feeding on Purple Giant-hyssop (*Agastache scrophulariifolia*; Brian Antczak, 2021) and Thinleaf Mountain-mint (*Pycnanthemum montanum*; Troy Evans, 2017).

OBSERVATION METHODS: Adults visit flowers at dusk but seem to be weakly attracted to lights where they are usually trapped in ones. Wagner (2005) states that males fly early in the evening explaining why light traps are ineffective in monitoring populations of this species.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G4G5 SNR [S2S3]

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

COMMENTS: Very few records exist for North Carolina and even fewer that are current. Possibly undersampled through use of 15 watt UV light traps. More information is needed on its distribution and habitat affinities before its conservation status can be accurately assessed. Host plants and presumed habitats do not appear to be limiting factors.