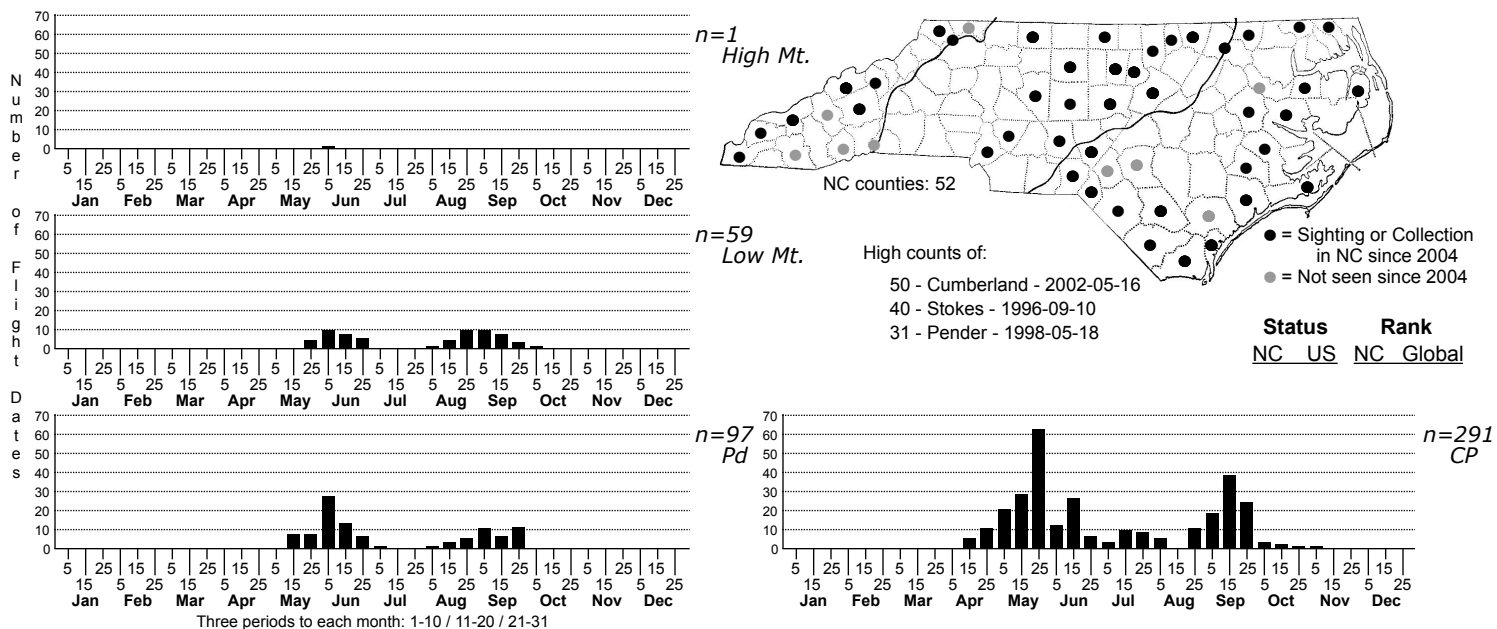


## *Cisthene plumbea* Lead-colored Lichen Moth



FAMILY: Erebiidae SUBFAMILY: Arctiinae TRIBE: Lithosiini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of twenty species in this genus that occur in North America, five of which have been recorded in North Carolina

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1960)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Wagner (2005)

ID COMMENTS: Lead to dark gray with pinkish to yellowish shading on the head and along the inner and costal margins of the forewings; a large triangular patch of the same color projects up from the inner margin in the postmedian area of the forewing. This species is larger than our other species of *Cisthene* and its pattern is unique; it can be easily identified from a good quality photograph.

DISTRIBUTION: Probably occurs statewide

FLIGHT COMMENT: Appears to be bivoltine, with strong spring-summer flight and another one in the fall

HABITAT: Recorded in virtually all types of forested habitats in the state; does not show any clear association with hardwoods versus conifers, wet or mesic versus dry habitats

FOOD: Like most Lithosiines, probably feeds on lichens, bark algae, and Cyanobacteria (Covell, 1984; Wagner, 2005).

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: Comes well to blacklights but none of our records come from bait

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 [S5]

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

COMMENTS: Widespread, abundant, and occupying an extremely broad range of habitats, this species is secure within the state