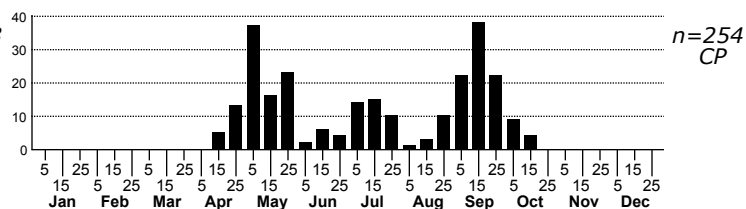
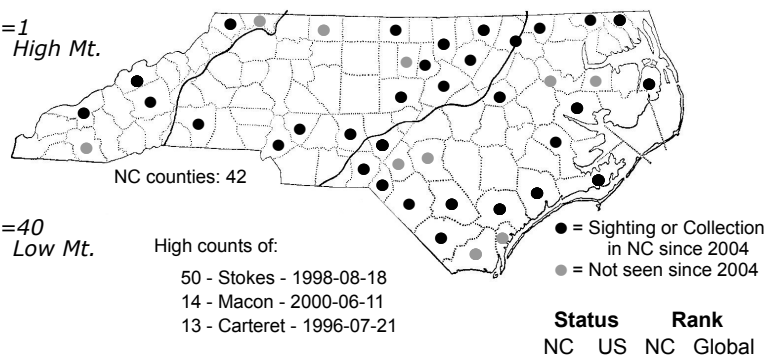
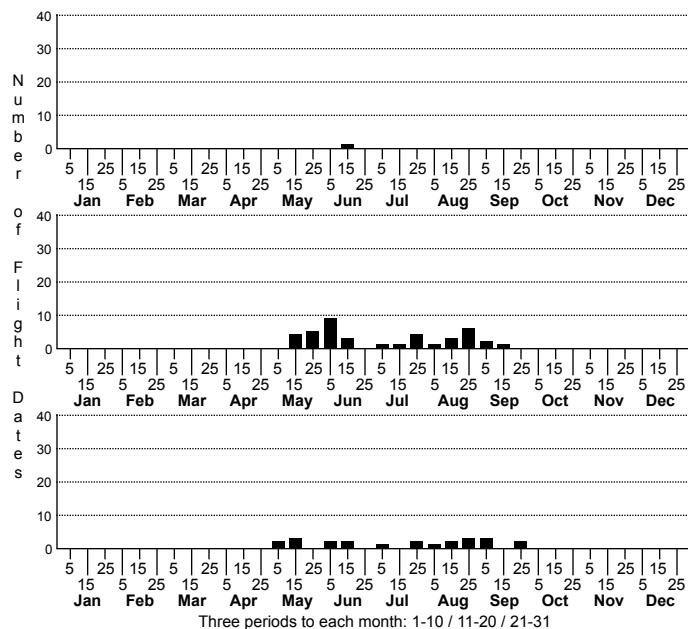


## *Cisthene packardii* Packard's Lichen Moth



FAMILY: Erebidae 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); Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1960)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Forbes (1960); Wagner (2005)

ID COMMENTS: Similar to but slightly larger than *Cisthene subjecta*. Dark gray with a thin yellow or gray line along the costa and a similarly colored submedian band located parallel to but above the inner margin; two pink to cherry red spots project downward from both of these lines in the postmedian area; unlike *C. subjecta*, *packardii* also has a patch of yellow located on the upper side of the submedian line, making the spot at the end of the lower line appear to be two-toned. Larvae are illustrated in Wagner (2005): the body is ashy gray with a dorsal pale stripe bordered by a purple line; the bases of scattered white hairs are outlined with green or yellow.

DISTRIBUTION: Probably occurs statewide

FLIGHT COMMENT: Appears to have three distinct flights

HABITAT: Our records come from virtually all types of forests and shrublands found in the state, from maritime scrub, peatlands, and Longleaf Pine savannas and sandhills in the Coastal Plain to riparian hardwoods and dry ridges in the Piedmont and Mountains.

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

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: Comes well to blacklights; 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: As a common, widely distributed species occupying an extremely broad set of habitats, this species appears to be secure in the state