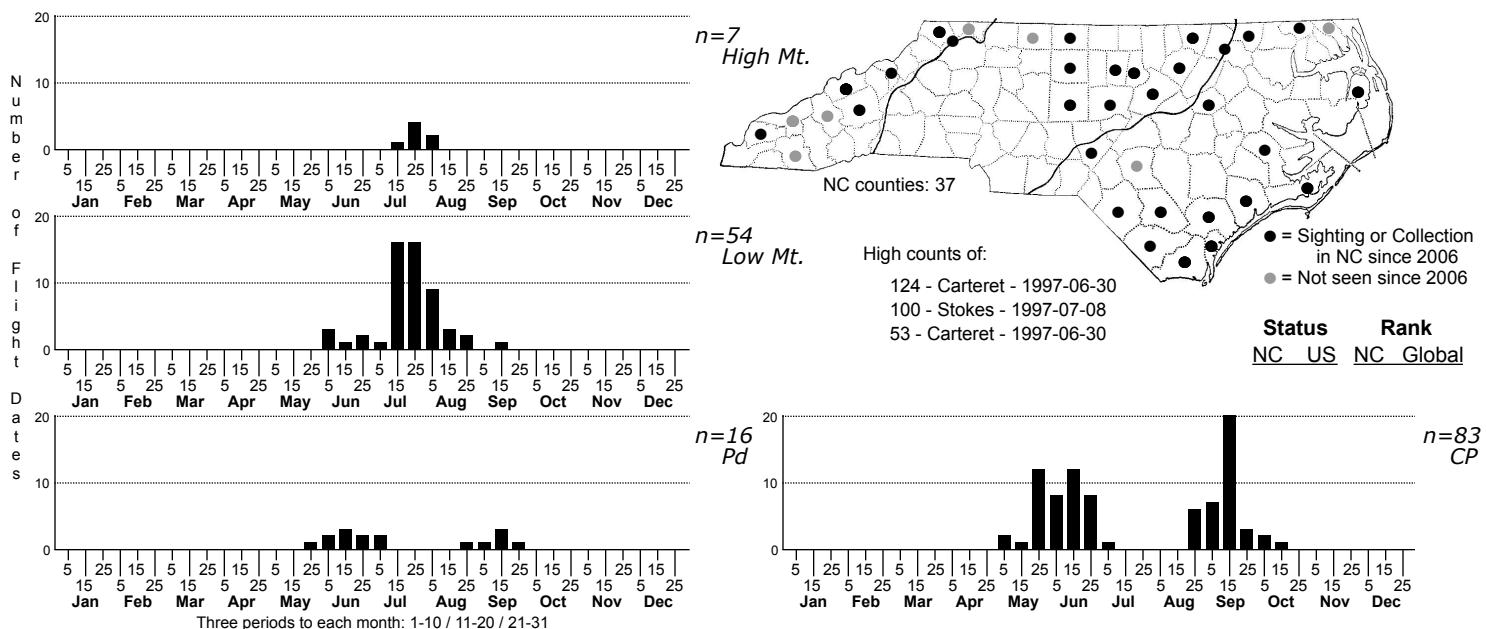


Hypoprepia miniata Scarlet-winged Lichen Moth



FAMILY: Erebidae SUBFAMILY: Arctiinae TRIBE: Lithosiini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of four members of this genus in North America, two of which occur in North Carolina. Some populations of both *miniata* and *fucosa* show strong departures in size and coloration from the typical patterns and may represent undescribed species (Wagner, 2005).

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: Strongly bicolored with scarlet and slate gray longitudinal bands on the wings and on the head, thorax, and abdomen. Usually larger than *Hypoprepia fucosa*, which is also usually tricolored, with yellow shading in addition to gray and red. Sizes and coloration of both species can vary, however. Some specimens of *miniata* have yellow or orange in place of the scarlet, but without the tricolored shading. *Miniata* usually has a broader gray margin on the hindwings and pure scarlet on the thorax, whereas *fucosa* usually has a narrower stripe on the hindwing and a dark central spot. The abdomen of *fucosa* is also usually gray (Forbes, 1960).

DISTRIBUTION: Probably occurs statewide.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Appears to have two distinct flights in the Coastal Plain. The pattern is less clear in the Piedmont and Mountains but there may be only a single, mid-season flight, falling in between the two flights seen in the Coastal Plain.

HABITAT: Habitats include forests and fields (Wagner, 2005). In North Carolina, we have records from a wide range of habitats across the state. It appears to be especially common in maritime forests and scrub and Coastal Fringe Sandhills but also occurs in Longleaf Pine savannas, riparian forests, and both mesic and dry forest in the Piedmont and Mountains.

FOOD: Hosts are poorly documented, but like most Lithosiines, it 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 SNR [S5]

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

COMMENTS: Although far less common than *H. fucosa*, this species is nonetheless widely distributed and occupies a broad set of habitats, making it secure in the state