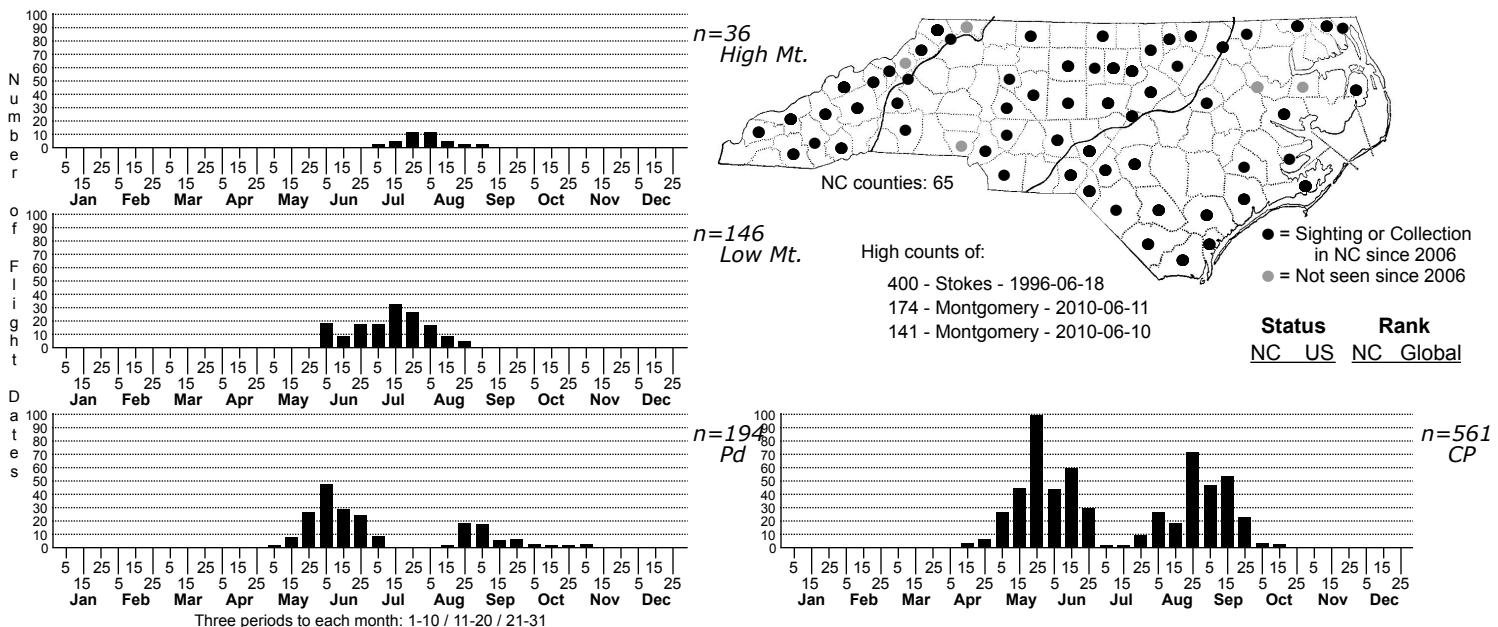


Hypoprepia fucosa Painted Lichen Moth



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 *fucosa* and *miniata* 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: Tricolored, with bands of red, yellow, and slate gray bands on the forewings; the head is also usually yellowish, the thorax red with a central spot of gray, and the abdomen mostly gray; hindwings are usually pale pink with an outward border of gray. Smaller but similar in pattern to *H. miniata*, which is usually more strongly bicolored with scarlet and gray. Sizes and coloration of both species can vary, however, with some specimens having the tricolored pattern of *fucosa* as large as typical *miniata*. *Fucosa* usually has a narrower gray margin on the hindwings and *miniata* usually lacks the dark central spot on the thorax; the abdomen of *miniata* is also usually red (Forbes, 1960).

DISTRIBUTION: Occurs statewide

FLIGHT COMMENT: Has two distinct flights in the Piedmont and Coastal Plain but only a single, mid-season flight in the Mountains, situated between the two flights in the eastern part of the state

HABITAT: Has one of the broadest range of habitats of any moth in the state. It is common to abundant in maritime forests and scrub, Coastal Fringe Sandhills, Longleaf Pine savannas and flatwoods, peatlands, riparian forests, mesic- and dry-to-xeric upland hardwoods.

FOOD: Hosts are poorly documented, but like most Lithosiines, it probably feeds on lichens, bark algae, and cyanobacteria.

OBSERVATION METHODS: Comes abundantly to blacklights but none of our records come from bait.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM BANKS: G5 SNR [S5]

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

COMMENTS: This is one of our most abundant and ubiquitous species, occurring in most forested and wooded habitats across the state. It appears to be quite secure.