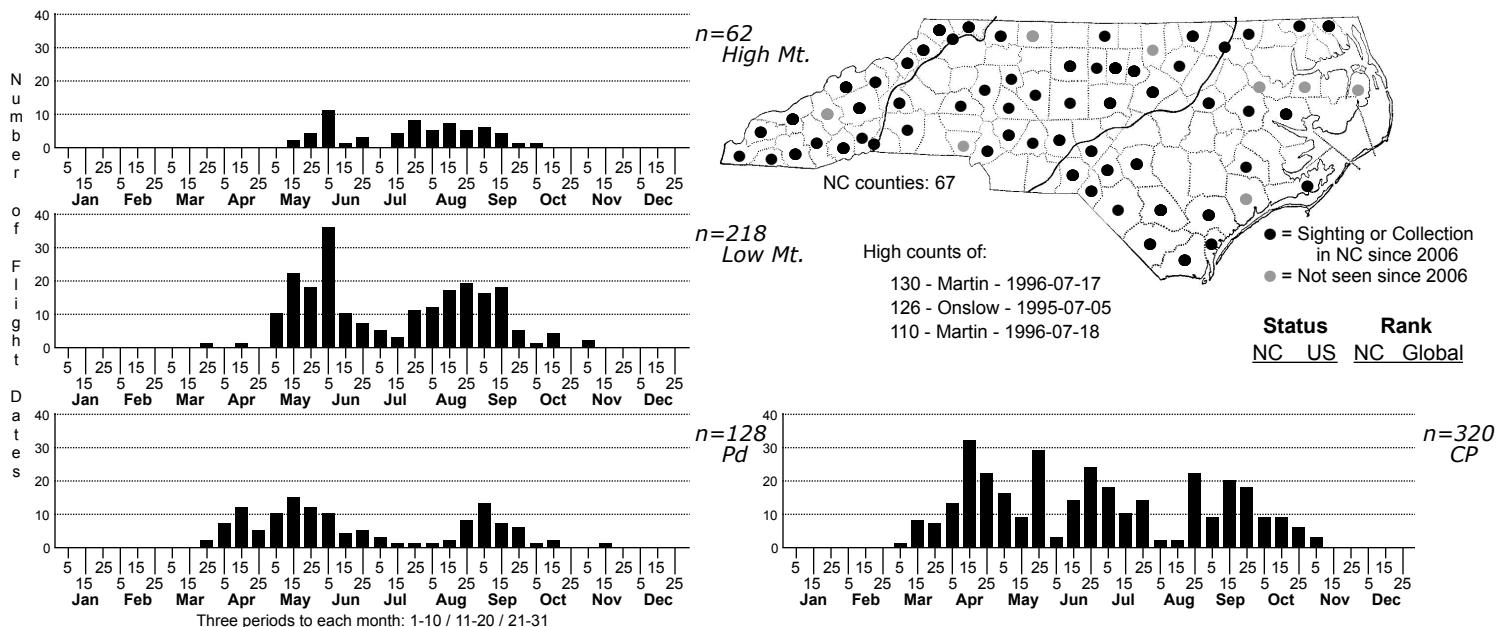


Clemensia albata Little White Lichen Moth



FAMILY: Erebidae SUBFAMILY: Arctiinae TRIBE: Lithosiini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of three species in this genus that occur in North America (Lafontaine and Schmidt, 2010). All three are found in North Carolina.

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1960); Schmidt and Sullivan (2018)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Wagner (2005)

ID COMMENTS: Small with relatively broad wings; white or dingy yellow ground color on the forewings mottled with darker gray or brown, usually with a prominent dark reniform spot. Fairly easy to recognize over most of its range but can be confused with *Clemensia umbrata* in the Mountains and *C. ochreata* in the Coastal Plain; some of the Nolidae are also similar in size and overall color but usually lack the dark reniform seen in *albata*.

DISTRIBUTION: Found throughout the state

FLIGHT COMMENT: Probably just two flights in the Mountains but three over the rest of the state

HABITAT: Our records come from virtually all types of forested or wooded habitats in the state, including maritime forests, peatlands, Longleaf Pine communities, floodplain forests, mesic slopes, and dry ridgetops

FOOD: Larvae are stenophagous, feeding primarily on bark algae (*Protococcus viridis*) (McCabe, 1981). We do not have any feeding records in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION METHODS: Comes well to blacklights, with up to 130 collected in a single trap; three of our records have been obtained 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: Widespread, ubiquitous, and using many types of habitat, this species is considered secure in North Carolina