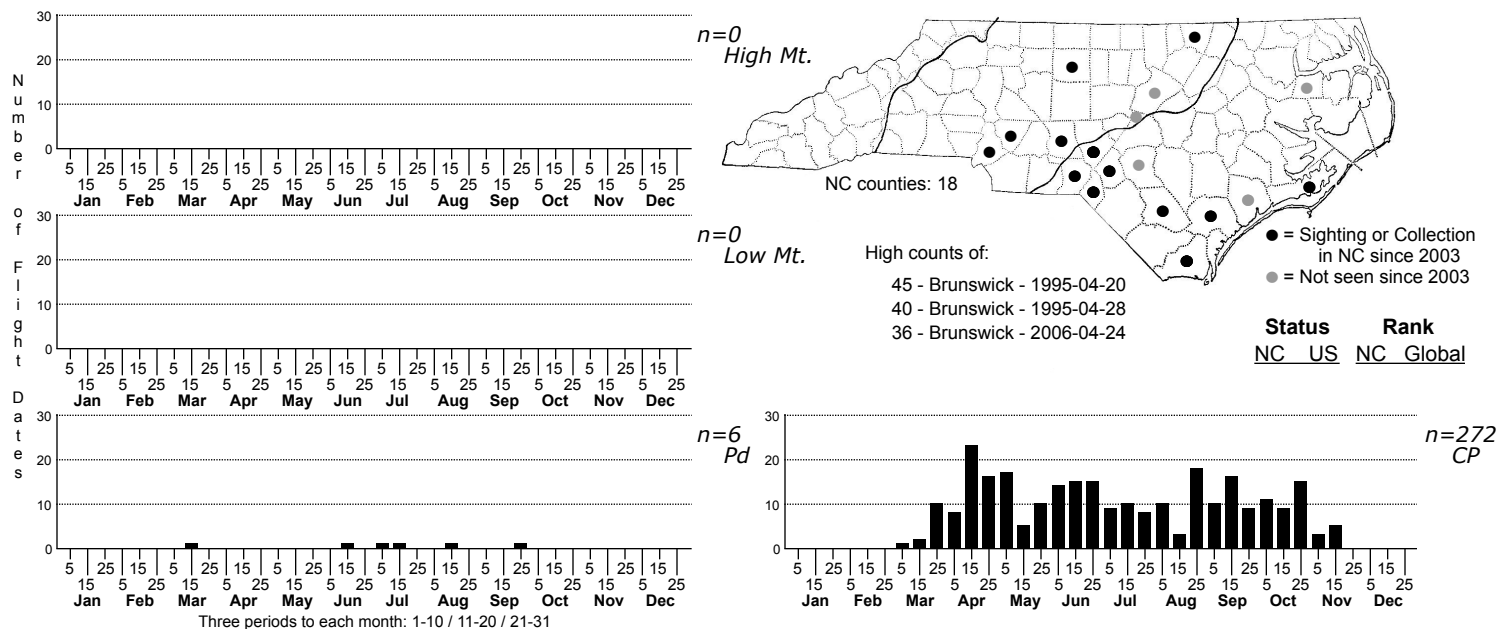


## *Pagara simplex* Mouse-colored Lichen Moth



FAMILY: Erebiidae SUBFAMILY: Arctiinae TRIBE: Arctiini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: The only member of this genus in North America (*Pagara simplex* on the MONA list was moved to *Trocodima* by Ferguson and Opler, 2006). *Pagara* had been included in the Lichen Moths in the MONA Checklist but was moved to the Callimorphini by Ferguson and Opler (2006) and to the Arctiini by Schmidt and Opler (2008).

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984)

ONLINE PHOTOS: MPG, Bugguide, BAMONA

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1960)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Forbes (1960)

ID COMMENTS: Brownish gray, with translucent wings that have a yellow shade at the base; the abdomen is yellowish with a mid-dorsal row of dark gray spots (Forbes, 1960; Covell, 1984). Male antennae are strongly pectinate with yellow at the base; females have serrate antennae. Similar to *Euchaetes egle*, which is larger and colored a darker, more opaque gray without any yellow at the base of the wings or antennae; these two species should be separable based on a good photo.

DISTRIBUTION: Concentrated in the southern Coastal Plain, including the Fall-line Sandhills, but occurring at least sparingly in the eastern Piedmont and northern Coastal Plain

FLIGHT COMMENT: Appears to be present throughout the growing season but with three main peaks in activity

HABITAT: The vast majority of our records come from Longleaf Pine communities, primarily wet-to-mesic savannas, and sandhill seeps. We also have records from a tract of peatland habitats in the northern Coastal Plain and from an old field habitat in the eastern Piedmont. All of these habitats are open and rich in forbs and graminoids.

FOOD: Probably polyphagous on forbs and possibly woody plants (reared in captivity on Dandelion in the Composite family -- Forbes, 1960)

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: Comes well to blacklights and has only been seen at bait a few times; can also be flushed during the day from herbaceous savanna vegetation

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 [S4]

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

COMMENTS: In North Carolina, this species appears to be strongly specialized on Longleaf Pine communities, which have undergone a major reduction in range and acreage, with the remnants widely scattered and vulnerable to conversion to pine plantations. However, *Pagara* is one of the more common species in savanna habitats and is probably secure as long as large tracts are managed for biodiversity.