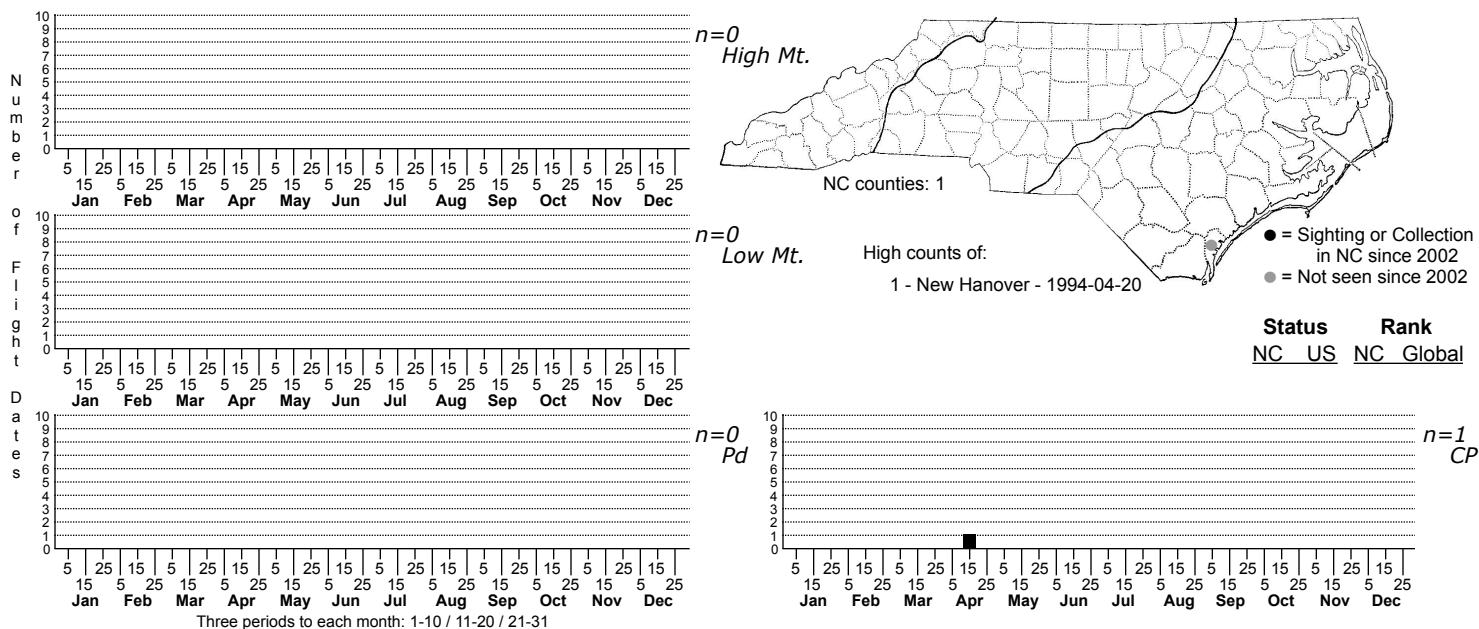


# *Afrida ydatodes* Dyar's Lichen Moth



FAMILY: Nolidae SUBFAMILY: Afridinae TRIBE:

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of three species (one provisional) in this essentially Neotropical genus that occur in North America north of Mexico (Lafontaine and Poole, 2010), and the only one recorded in North Carolina

**FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:**

ONLINE PHOTOS: MPG, BugGuide, BAMONA

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Dyar (1913)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Wagner et al. (2011)

ID COMMENTS: A small, chunky, greenish and brownish banded Punkie. The ground color is pale greenish-white, crossed by a brownish or grayish median band. The inner line of the median band is relatively straight from the costa to the cubital vein, then becomes more irregular (Dyar, 1913). The dorsal half of the basal area is also shaded with gray or brown. Hindwings are whitish but may be shaded with gray or greenish.

DISTRIBUTION: The sole North Carolina record comes the southeastern corner of the Outer Coastal Plain

FLIGHT COMMENT: We have too few records to detect any temporal pattern

HABITAT: Wagner et al. (2011) describe the habitats used by this species as mesic woodlands and tropical hardwood hammocks. Our one record, however, comes from xeric, coastal fringe sandhills, although mesic maritime forest and maritime swamp forests are located in some of the surrounding areas. Xeric sandhills often support a high diversity and abundance of lichens, so its presence in such habitats may not just represent a stray from wetter habitats.

FOOD: Lichens and tree algae (Wagner et al., 2011)

OBSERVATION METHODS: Our one specimen was collected using a blacklight trap, but we do not have enough records to know how well lights or bait work to attract adults of this species. Wagner et al. report capturing at least one larva by beating.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 S1S3

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

COMMENTS: The early collection date for our one specimen suggests that it had overwintered in that area rather than straying up from the south. However, much more information needs to be obtained about its actual distribution, abundance, and habitat associations in North Carolina before we can accurately assess its conservation status.