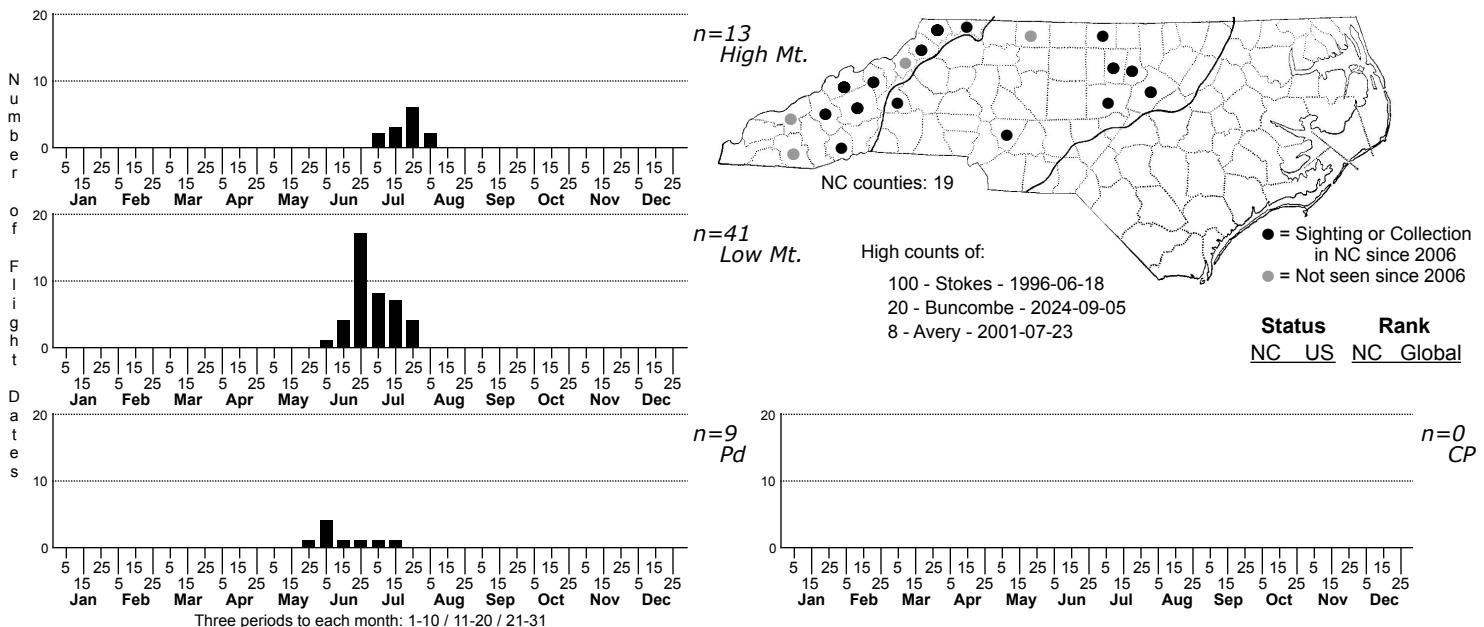


## Haploa contigua Neighbor Moth



FAMILY: Erebidae SUBFAMILY: Arctiinae TRIBE: Arctiini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of six species currently recognized in North America, all of which occur in North Carolina

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: One of four species of Haploa that have all white hindwings. The forewings are white and outlined on all margins with black (usually interrupted at the wing angles). As in lecontei and confusa, a short diagonal line runs from beyond the mid-point on the costa to the inner margin above the anal angle, and is joined by a line that runs from the outer margin just below the apex. Unlike confusa and at least some forms of lecontei, contigua lacks any lines or spurs in the antemedial portion of the forewing. Unlike the paler forms of lecontei, which lack any markings in the antemedial area, the diagonal line running down from the costa is usually much stronger than the one that runs in from the outer margin; in lecontei, the diagonal line may be missing and only the one running in from the outer margin to the inner margin may be present. A good photograph is usually enough to identify this species, although all white forms exist that are essentially indistinguishable from similar forms found in the other species.

DISTRIBUTION: The majority of our records come from the Mountains, where this species appears to be generally distributed. A few records also exist from the Piedmont, including from montane-like habitat at Hanging Rock State Park but also from more typical Piedmont habitats as far east as Wake County. This species may turn out to have a much wider distribution in the Piedmont than is currently known.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Appears to have a single, mid-season flight

HABITAT: Records from the Mountains come from both riparian areas (e.g., New River State Park) as well upland forests on slopes and ridges, with perhaps a concentration in mesic habitats. Habitats in the Piedmont may also be mesic but the details are unrecorded.

FOOD: Probably polyphagous, feeding on many species of herbaceous and woody plants, but possibly preferring species in the Asteraceae and Boraginaceae (Forbes, 1960; Wagner, 2005). In North Carolina, larvae have been recorded on Buffalo-nut (*Pyrularia pubera*), Dog-fennel (*Eupatorium capillifolium*), and non-native Gregg's Mistflower (*Conoclinium greggii*).

OBSERVATION METHODS: Comes moderately well to blacklights, but none of our records come from bait; flushes easily during the day and appears to be at least partially diurnal.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S3S4]

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

COMMENTS: This species may have a distribution covering the western two-thirds of the state and appears to occupy a moderately wide range of habitats. It is probably secure in the Mountains but more needs to be learned about its distribution, abundance, and habitat associations in the Piedmont before an overall assessment can be made about its conservation status across the entire state.