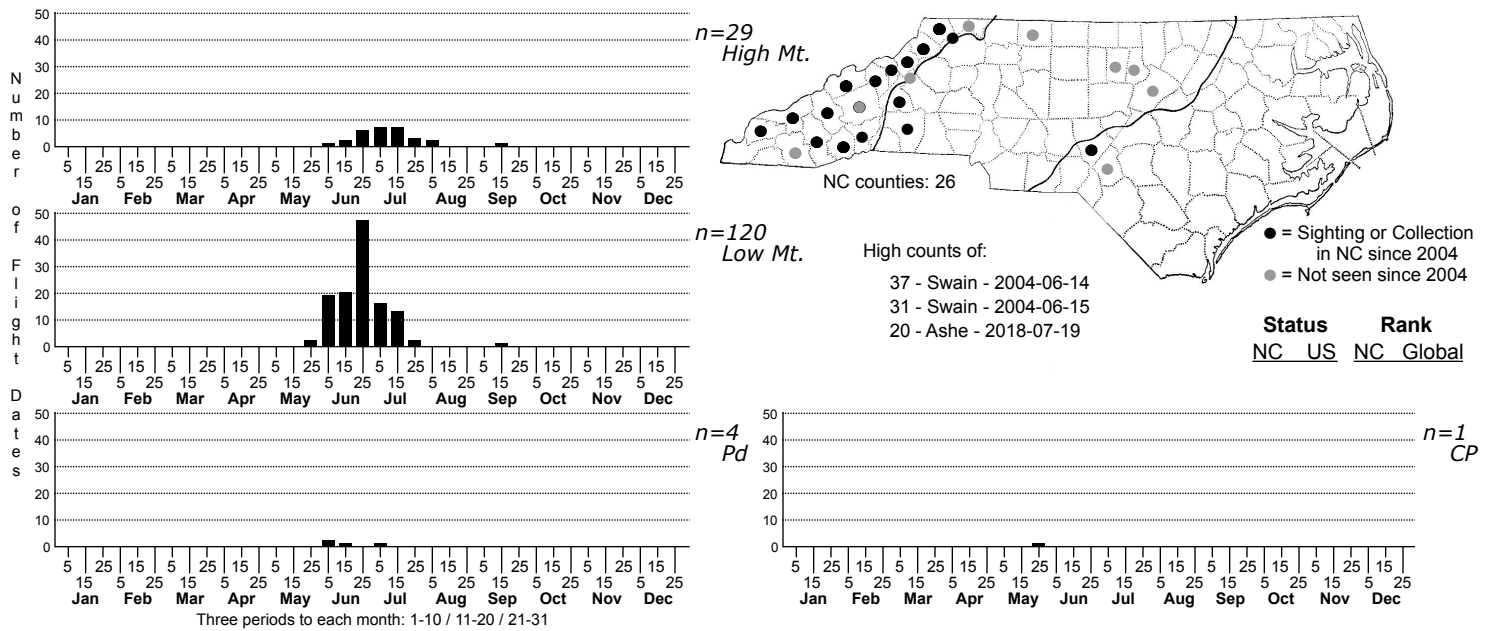


## *Haploa lecontei* Leconte's Haploa Moth



FAMILY: Erebiidae 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). *Lecontei* usually has a strong black line running from the outer margin just below the apex to the inner margin above the anal angle, where there is usually a strong dark blotch or widening of the marginal line. Forms where this postmedial line is the only one crossing the inner part of the wing are unmistakable. However, there is often a dark line or spur in the antemedial area, as in *confusa*, connecting the costal and inner margins when complete. As in *contigua* and *confusa*, a line or spur may exist in the postmedial area running from beyond the mid-point on the costa to the line that runs from the outer margin to the inner margin. The darkest forms, where all of these lines are well-developed, are particularly similar to *confusa*, which is smaller, usually browner, and has a white spot in the blotch on the inner margin. All-white forms may be indistinguishable from similar forms in the other species. Specimens are occasionally encountered in North Carolina that have a faint orangish-white ground color on the forewings and hindwings instead of the pure white ground that is more typical of this species.

DISTRIBUTION: The majority of records come from the Mountains but there are also records (several historic) from the eastern Piedmont and Fall-line Sandhills.

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. At least some of the records from the Sandhills come from open, herb-rich seepage slopes.

FOOD: Polyphagous, feeding on many species of herbaceous and woody plants (Forbes, 1960; Wagner, 2005). Wagner (2005) specifically lists Apple, Eupatorium, and Willow.

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 S4S5

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.