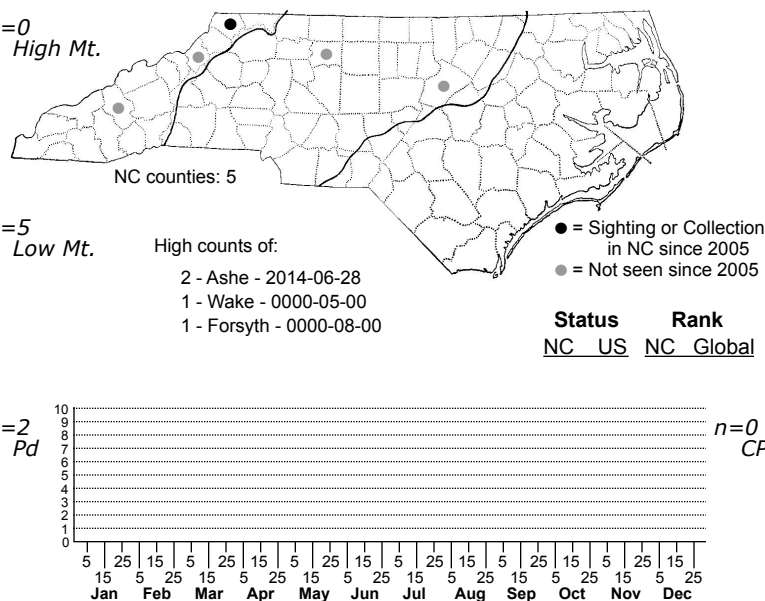
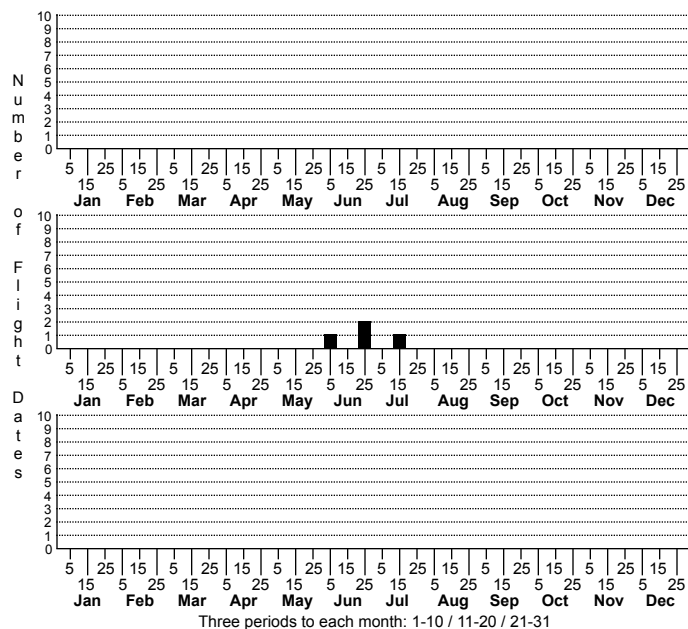


## *Virbia ferruginosa* Rusty Virbia



FAMILY: Erebiidae SUBFAMILY: Arctiinae TRIBE: Arctiini

TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS: One of fourteen species in North America, five of which occur in North Carolina

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984; as *Holomelina ferruginosa*); Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Zaspel et al. (2008)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: None

ID COMMENTS: *Virbia ferruginosa* is one of several small brownish- or yellowish-orange *Virbias*, all of which may be difficult to distinguish, particularly based on photographs alone, especially shots showing just the forewings. *Ferruginosa* is particularly similar to *aurantiaca*, but it larger and usually has the dark band on the hindwing broken into a series of spots; in *aurantiaca*, this bar is usually more solid (Zaspel et al., 2008). Females may have white spots on the forewing. Dissection offers the most reliable way of identification, at least for males (see Forbes, 1960; and Zaspel et al., 2008 for illustrations and descriptions).

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Brimley (1938) had records from May and August in the Piedmont and from May in the Mountains

HABITAT: Habitat was not recorded at the few localities where this species has been found in North Carolina

FOOD: Larvae of this species has been reared in captivity on dandelion (*Taraxacum*) (Zaspel et al., 2008), suggesting they might be polyphagous, feeding on a wide range of forbs.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: Collection methods were not recorded at the sites where this species has been found in North Carolina

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S1S2]

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

COMMENTS: The only current records come from the northern mountains, where they were collected by J.B. Sullivan. The historic records from the Haywood County and the Piedmont may represent misidentifications.