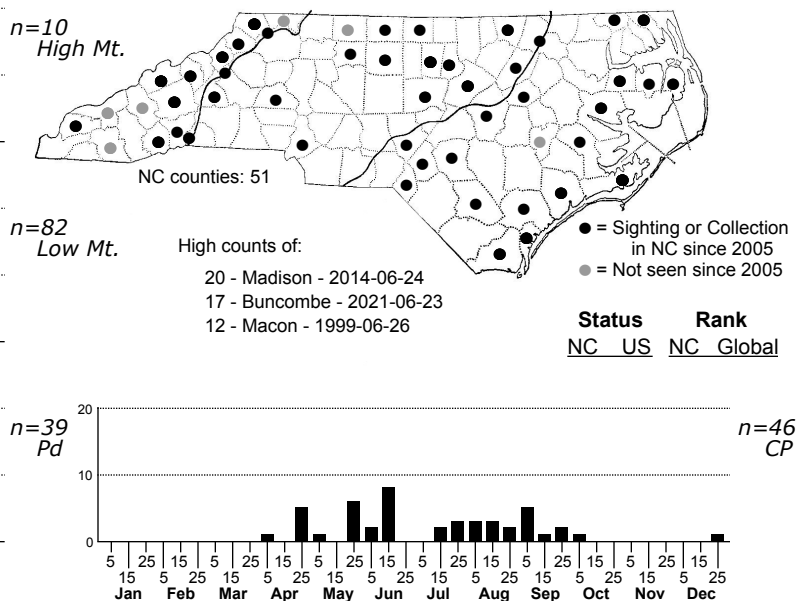
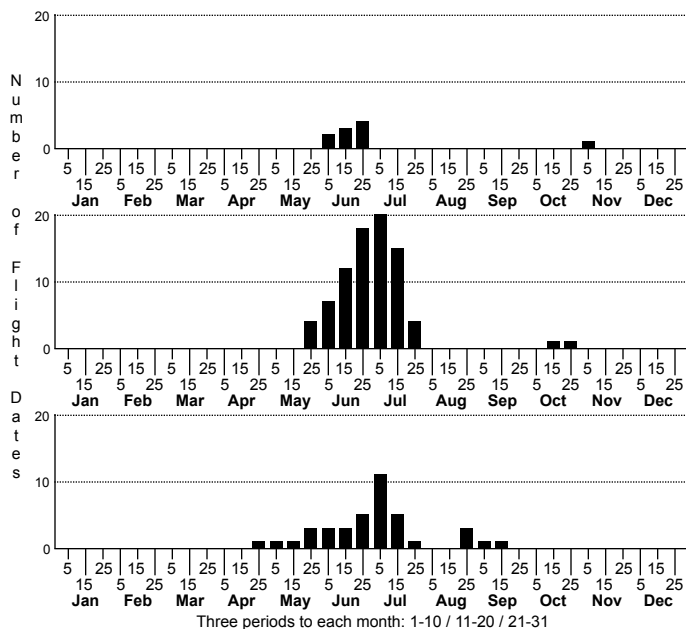


# *Hypercompe scribonia* Giant Leopard Moth



FAMILY: Erebiidae SUBFAMILY: Arctiinae TRIBE: Arctiini

TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS: One of six species in this genus that occurs in North America and the only one found in our area

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984; as *Ecpantheria scribonia*); Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1960)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Forbes (1960); Wagner (2005)

ID COMMENTS: The large white adults with black or blue ringed-shaped spots on the forewings and thorax and blue and orange colored abdomens are unmistakable.

DISTRIBUTION: Probably occurs statewide.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Possibly single-brooded in the Mountains, but may be continuously present during the growing season in the Coastal Plain; more data are needed to determine if there are distinct peaks in adult activity

HABITAT: We have records from a variety of habitats, including barrier island dunes and maritime forests; riparian and lakeshore hardwood forests; and dry Piedmont and Mountain ridges. We lack records, however, from Longleaf Pine savannas and flatwoods, as well as pocosins and pond pine woodlands, indicating that it may not be adapted to fire-maintained habitats.

FOOD: Larvae are polyphagous, feeding on a large variety of both herbaceous and woody plants (Forbes, 1960). Wagner (2005) specifically lists sunflower (*Helianthus*), plantain (*Plantago*), cherry (*Prunus*), oak (*Quercus*), willow (*Salix*), dandelion (*Taraxacum*), and violet (*Viola*). In North Carolina, larvae have been recorded on ash (*Fraxinus*), plantain, elm (*Ulmus*), White Mulberry (*Morus alba*), Mexican Ground-cherry (*Physalis philadelphica*), American Hog-peanut (*Amphicarpaea bracteata*), Creeping Cucumber (*Melothria pendula*), and dandelion.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: Appears to come only moderately to blacklights, mostly as single individuals. Wagner (2005) says that it is only the males that commonly show up at lights. Not recorded at bait.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S5]

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

COMMENTS: Although we are not certain about the abundance of this species and the adequacy of sampling methods, it occurs throughout the state and uses a wide variety of habitats, including residential areas, making it appear to be fairly secure.