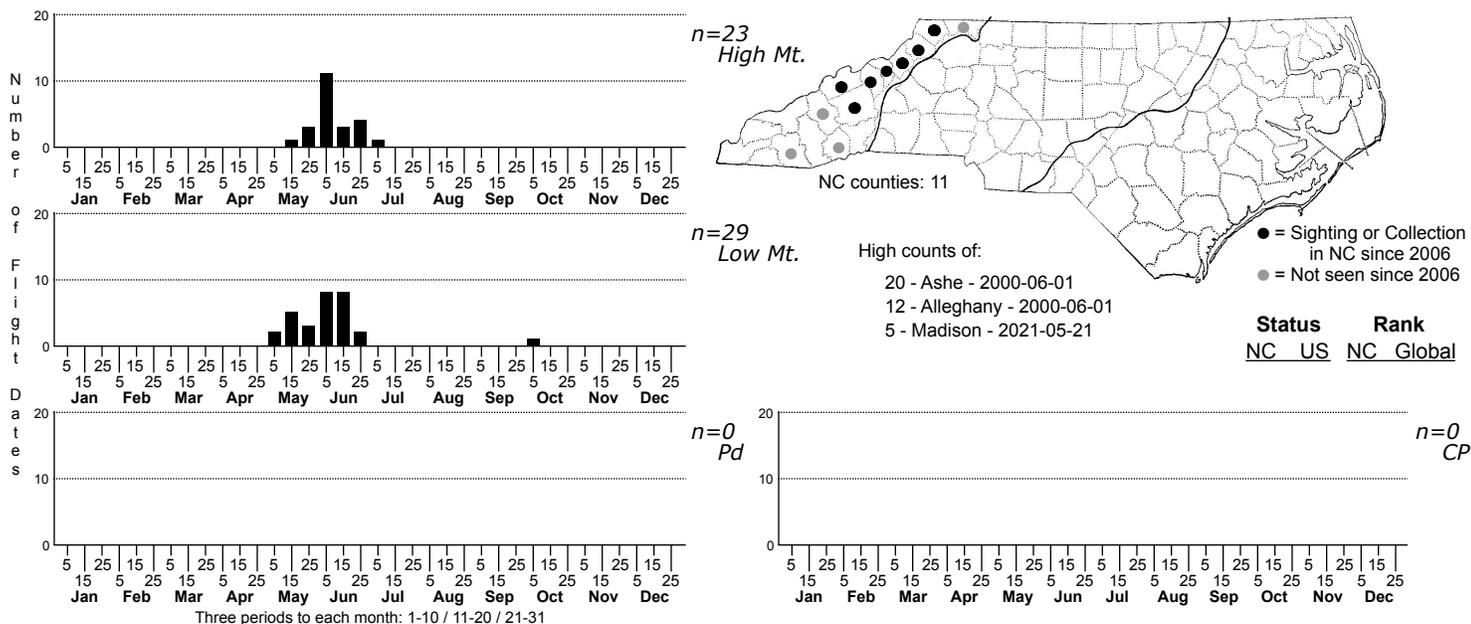


Lophocampa caryae Hickory Tussock Moth



FAMILY: Erebiidae SUBFAMILY: Arctiinae TRIBE: Arctiini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of eleven species in this genus that occurs in North America (Lafontaine and Schmidt, 2010), only two of which have been recorded 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: Similar in size and wing shape to *Halysidota* sp., *Leucanopsis longa*, and *Lophocampa maculata*. Differs from all of them in having a much more contrasting pattern of translucent white or cream spots running in rows against a darker brown background and in possessing one or two streaks of dark brown that run obliquely across the forewings from the costa to the inner margin. Larvae are also quite distinctive, being primarily pure white with a row of mid-dorsal black tufts, rows of lateral black spots, and two pairs of longer black pencils near the anterior and posterior ends of the abdomen.

DISTRIBUTION: Probably is restricted to the Mountains (sight records from the Coastal Plain need to be confirmed)

FLIGHT COMMENT: Appears to have one main flight in spring and early summer

HABITAT: Our records all come from hardwood forests, including riparian areas (e.g., New River State Park) and high ridges and summits.

FOOD: Polyphagous, feeding on many species of trees and shrubs although preferring members of the Juglandaceae: hickories, Pecan, and walnut (Wagner, 2005). In North Carolina, larvae have been recorded feeding on maple (*Acer* sp.), American Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*), Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*), Fire Cherry (*Prunus pensylvanica*), oak (*Quercus* sp.), Flame Azalea (*Rhododendron calendulaceum*), Great Smoky Mountains *Rhododendron* (*R. smokianum*), sumac (*Rhus* sp.), and American Mountain-ash (*Sorbus americana*).

OBSERVATION_METHODS: Appears to come moderately well to blacklights, usually in small numbers but with up to 20 being recorded on one occasion.

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: Restricted to the Mountains but is associated with fairly common hardwood habitats. May be affected by global climate change but seems likely to persist within the state.