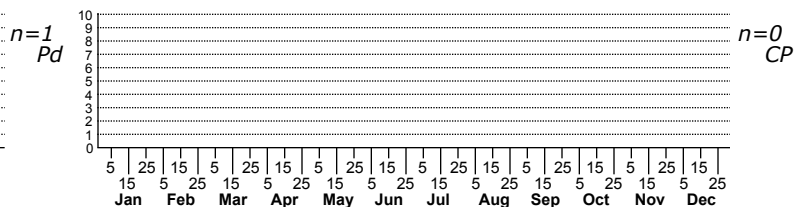
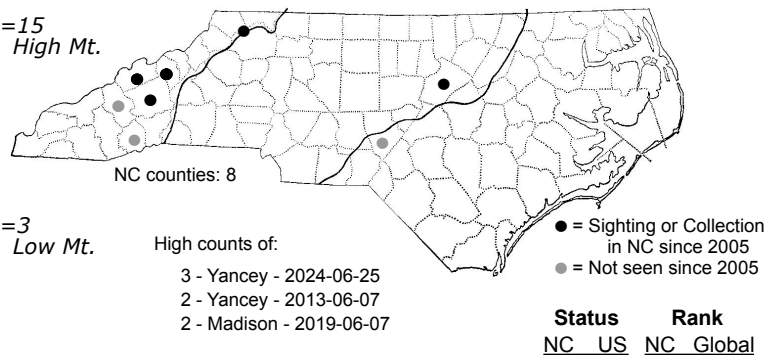
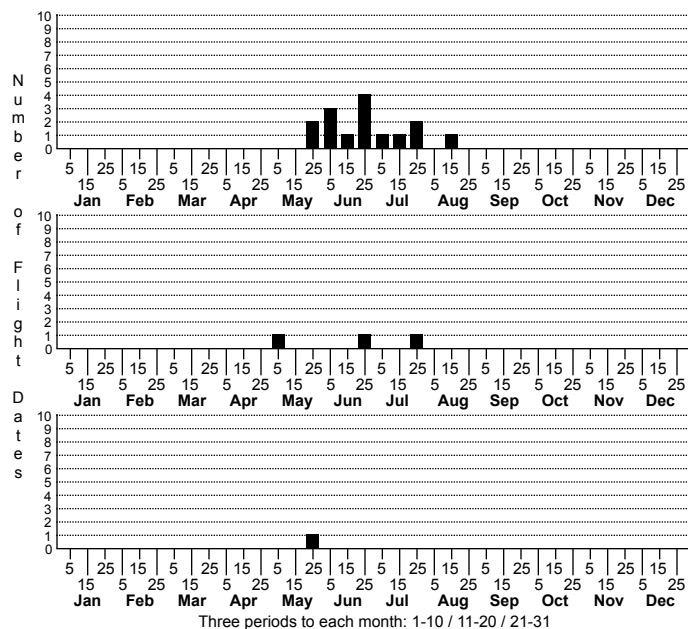


# *Lophocampa maculata* Spotted Tussock Moth



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 caryae*. Differs from *Halysidota* and *Leucanopsis* in having a more constrasting pattern of alternating bands of lighter buff and darker brown but lacks the white spots that are characteristic of *L. caryae*.

DISTRIBUTION: Found primarily in the Mountains but with records from the Eastern Piedmont and Fall-line Sandhills (which need to be verified)

FLIGHT COMMENT: Probably has a single flight in early summer

HABITAT: Records from the Mountains come from upland sites along the Blue Ridge Parkway and Great Smoky Mountains National Park; records from the Piedmont come from lakeshore habitats.

FOOD: Larvae are polyphagous, feeding on many species of hardwood trees and shrubs but preferring alder (*Alnus* spp.) and willow (*Salix* spp.) (Wagner, 2005). While there are numerous larval records from North Carolina, the host plants were not recorded.

OBSERVATION METHODS: Records from the Mountains were all obtained using blacklights but it is unclear how well this species comes to lights in general.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S2S3]

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

COMMENTS: Uncommonly recorded in North Carolina, where its distribution, abundance, and habitat associations need to be better understood before its conservation status can be accurately assessed.