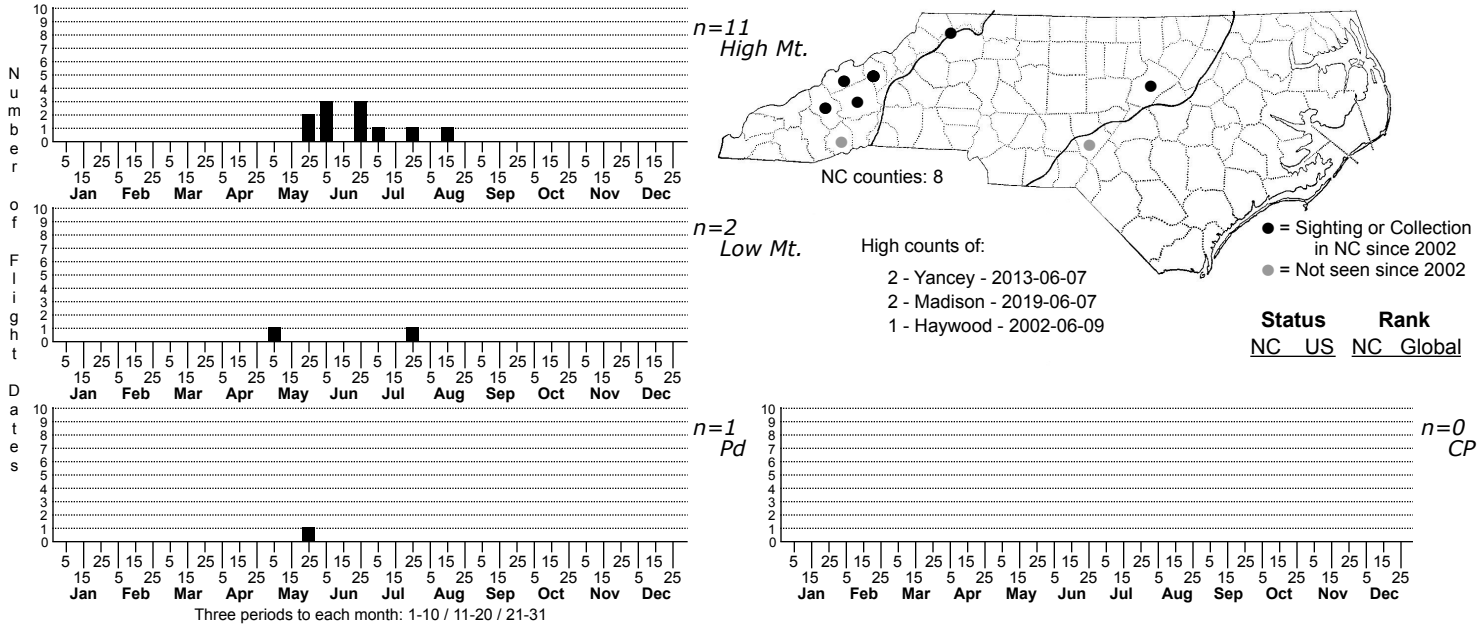
Lophocampa maculata Spotted Tussock Moth



FAMILY: Erebidae 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: MPG, Bugguide, BAMONA
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 Smokey Mountains National Park; records from the Piedmont come from lakeshore habitats

FOOD: Polyphagous, feeding on many species of hardwood trees and shrubs but preferring Alder (Alnus sp.) and Willow (Salix sp.) (Wagner, 2005)

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 [SU]

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 assessed.