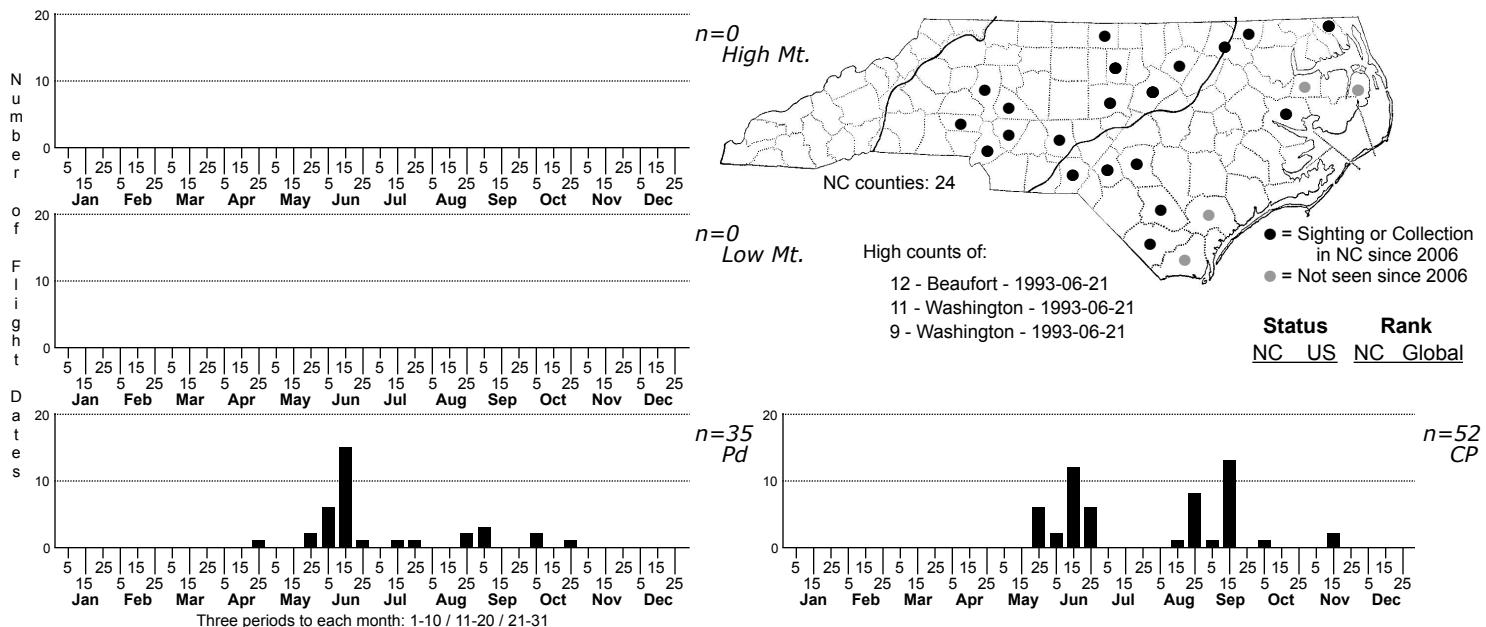


Leucanopsis longa Long-streaked Tussock Moth



FAMILY: Erebidae **SUBFAMILY:** Arctiinae **TRIBE:** Arctiini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of three species in this genus that occur in North America (Lafontaine and Schmidt, 2010) and the only one found in North Carolina

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: (Not included in Forbes, 1960)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Apparently lacking

ID COMMENTS: Similar in size, wing shape, and yellowish coloration to the *Halysidota* species but lacking the tessellated bands and green thoracic lines found in those species and possessing a prominent brown longitudinal streak and numerous brown flecks not found in *Halysidota*. Also similar in color to *Pyrrharctia isabella* in wing color and speckling, but lacks the red on the legs and abdomen characteristic of that species. Unworn specimens, at least, are easily identified based on photographs, particularly where they show the abdomen.

DISTRIBUTION: Appears to be restricted to the Coastal Plain and the eastern edge of the Piedmont.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Probably has two distinct flights, one in the spring and early summer, one in the late summer and fall.

HABITAT: Almost all of our records come from fairly wet sites, including freshwater marshes, pond and lake shorelines, riparian forests, peatlands, hillside seepage bogs, and fairly wet Longleaf Pine savannas. One record comes from xeric sandhills habitat but where there were pocosins and bottomland forests located near by.

FOOD: Larvae are probably stenophagous, feeding on a restricted range of wetland graminoids ("wide-bladed marsh grass" according to Covell, 1984). We do not have any feeding records in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION METHODS: Comes well to blacklights, with up to 11 or 12 being collected in single traps. None of our records come from bait.

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: This species is uncommon and somewhat of a habitat specialist. Nonetheless, it occurs in a variety of habitats and across approximately a third of the state; appears to be relatively secure