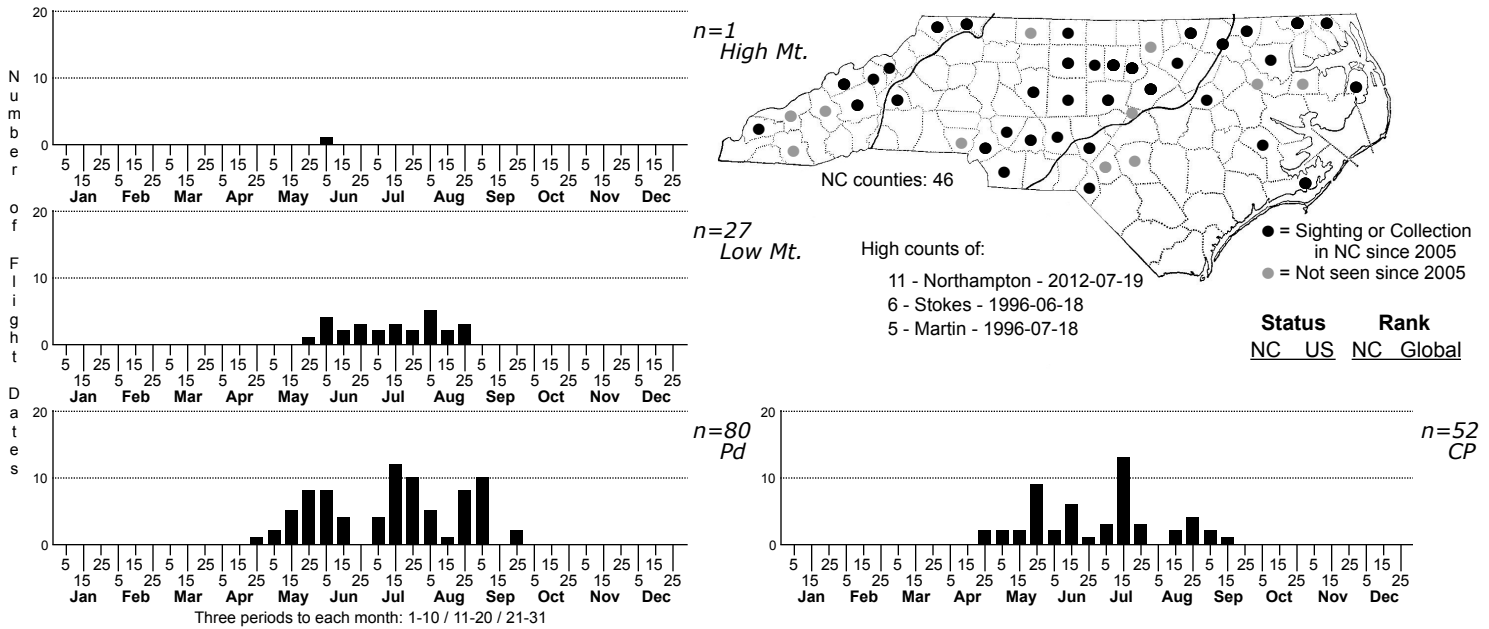


Cycnia tenera Delicate Cycnia



FAMILY: Erebiidae SUBFAMILY: Arctiinae TRIBE: Arctiini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: This is one of three species in this genus that occur in North America, all of which have been recorded in North Carolina. *Cycnia inopinatus* is a previously described species that has been recorded from North Carolina, but was synonymized with *C. collaris* based on comparison of genitalic structures and DNA barcode variation (Pohl and Nanz, 2023).

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: Forewings are white and somewhat translucent; head, thorax, and the costa of the forewing are deep yellow. Similar to *Cycnia inopinatus* but is larger, usually a purer white, and has the yellow costal stripe reaching well beyond the mid-point, often nearly to the apex of the forewing; legs are bicolored, unlike the solid lead gray in *inopinatus*. Most specimens should be easily distinguishable based on a good quality photograph.

DISTRIBUTION: Probably occurs statewide.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Wagner (2005) states that there are two to three generations per year; our data appear to show three peaks but with adults present essentially throughout the growing season.

HABITAT: Found in a wide variety of open habitats, including old field and road edges, where dogbane is often abundant.

FOOD: Larvae feed on dogbane, and are possibly monophagous on Hemp Dogbane (*Apocynum cannabinum*), which has been confirmed as the host in North Carolina. Records for milkweed require confirmation.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: Comes moderately well to blacklights and is often observed during the day, especially near patches of Dogbane. None of our records come from bait.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S4S5]

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

COMMENTS: Common, widespread, and uses a wide variety of habitats, including early successional and disturbed areas; appears to be quite secure.