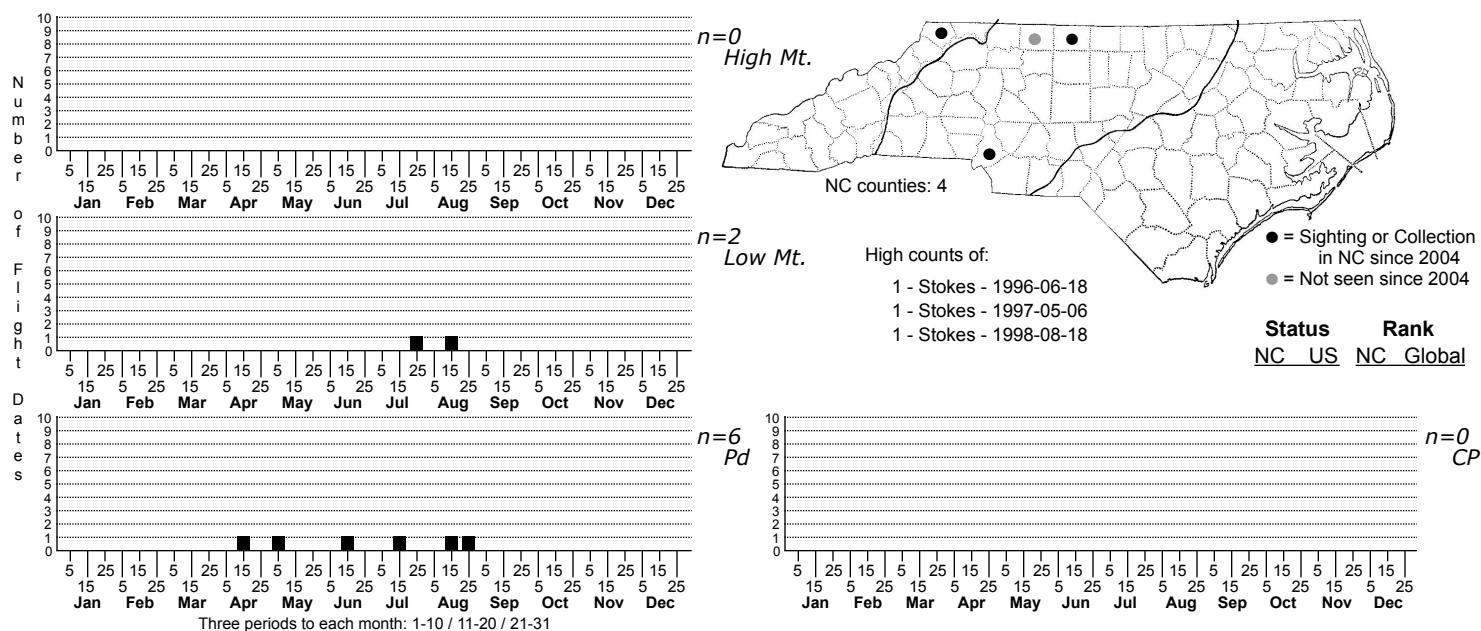


Cycnia oregonensis Oregon Cycnia Moth



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: Similar in size and shape to *Cycnia tenera*, but the forewings are usually off-white rather than pure white, possess contrastingly white veins, and lack the yellow stripe along the costa. Head and abdomen are yellow, with a row of black spots running down the center of the abdomen. Specimens in good shape should usually be identifiable from a good quality photograph.

DISTRIBUTION: The range of this species is mainly to the west and north of North Carolina; our populations appear to be confined to the northern Mountains and to isolated monadnocks in the northwestern Piedmont

FLIGHT COMMENT: Covell (1984) states that there are two broods per year; our data only suggest that adults can be found throughout most of the growing season (at least at Hanging Rock State Park in the western Piedmont)

HABITAT: Our records appear to come mainly from riparian areas, probably where there are openings supporting populations of Dogbane

FOOD: Feeds on dogbane, and is possibly monophagous on Hemp Dogbane (*Apocynum cannabinum*). There are also BugGuide records for larvae on milkweed, but this requires confirmation.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: We have too few records to judge how well it comes to lights; probably does not come at all to bait.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 S2S3

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

COMMENTS: Although apparently rare in North Carolina, the abundance and widespread occurrence of its host plant suggests that it may have been overlooked. More needs to be learned about its abundance, distribution, and habitat associations in North Carolina in order to estimate its conservation status.