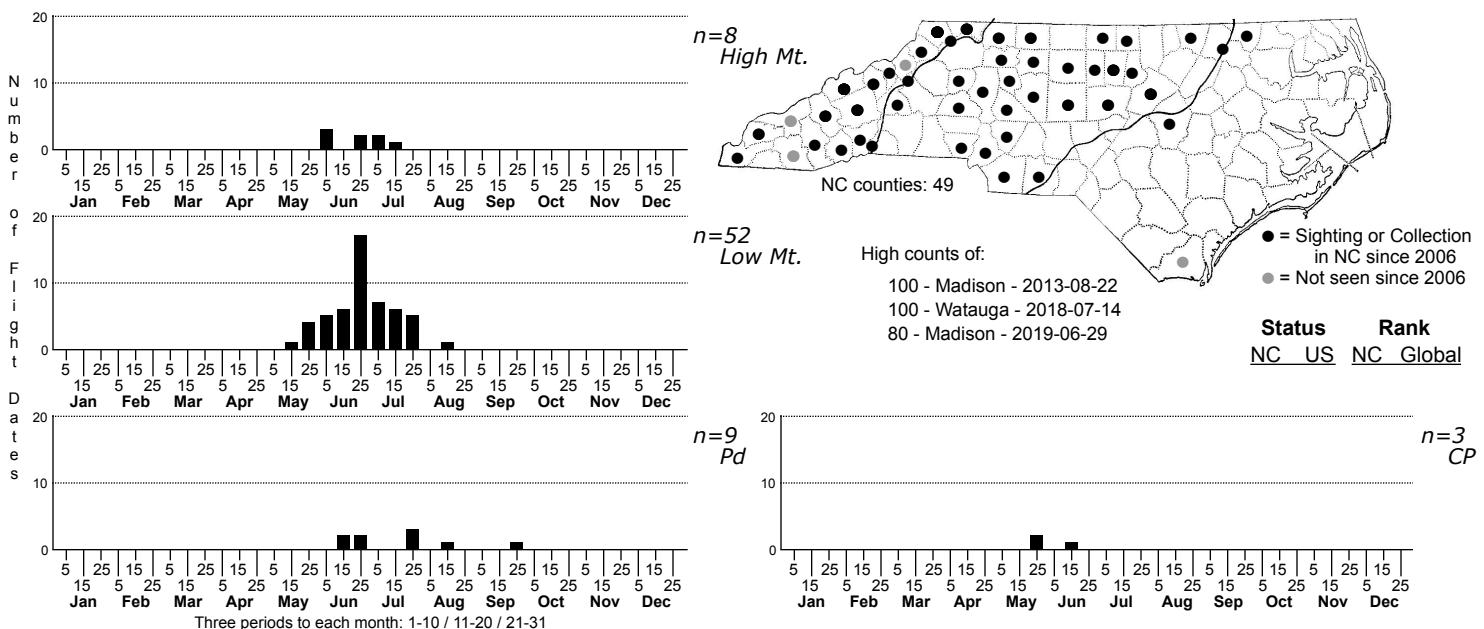


Euchaetes egle Milkweed Tussock Moth



FAMILY: Erebidae SUBFAMILY: Arctiinae TRIBE: Arctiini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of twelve species in this genus that occur in North America (Lafontaine and Schmidt, 2010), and the only one that is found 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: Larger but similar in coloration to both *Pygarctia abdominalis* and *Pagara simplex*, with wings predominantly gray and abdomen yellow or orange with a mid-dorsal row of black dots. Apart from the abdomen, *egle* is completely gray, lacking the yellow or orange marks on the head found in both *abdominalis* and *simplex* and also lacking the similarly colored marks found on the thorax of *abdominalis*.

DISTRIBUTION: Possibly occurs throughout the state but with many counties lacking records

FLIGHT COMMENT: Wagner (2005) states there are two flights over most of its range but our data are too few to make out a clear pattern

HABITAT: Records from the Mountains and Piedmont come from both riparian and ridgeline habitats, including open sites and closed canopy forests. In the Coastal Plain, the few records we have come from bottomland forests but with either an herbaceous ground cover present or open habitats located close by.

FOOD: The larvae feed only on milkweeds (<i>Asclepias</i> spp.) (Wagner, 2005). As of 2024, we have feeding records for Poke Milkweed (<i>A. exaltata</i>), Swamp Milkweed (<i>A. incarnata</i>), Common Milkweed (<i>A. syriaca</i>) and Butterfly Milkweed (<i>A. tuberosa</i>).

OBSERVATION METHODS: Appears to come fairly well to blacklights with up to 20 having been observed at a sheet on a given occasion. None of our records come from bait. The larvae are easy to spot during the day as they feed on milkweeds.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SN [S4S5]

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

COMMENTS: Uncommon but apparently widely distributed across the state and making use of a wide variety of habitats; appears to be secure