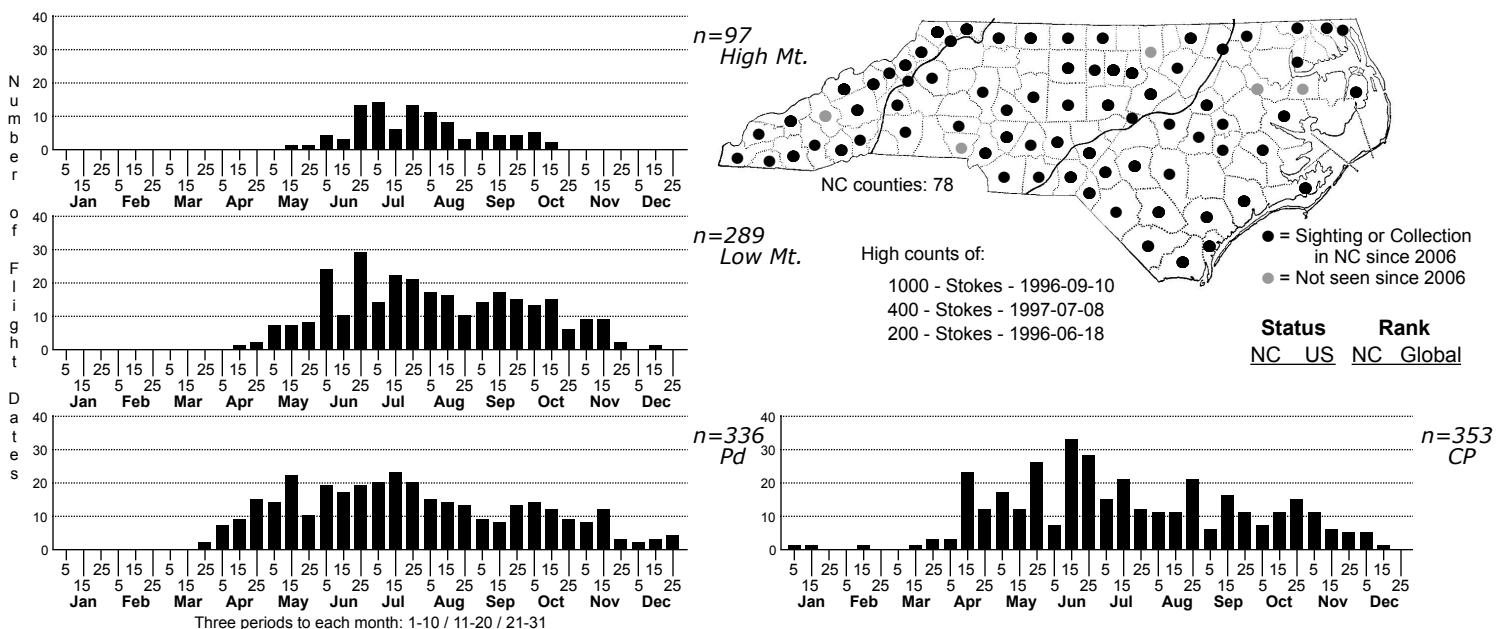


Idia aemula Common Idia



FAMILY: Erebidae SUBFAMILY: Herminiinae TRIBE:

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of eighteen species recorded in North America (Lafontaine and Schmidt, 2010), twelve of which are found in North Carolina.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984); Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1954); Rings et al. (1992)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Wagner et al. (2011)

ID COMMENTS: A moderately small deltoid, similar in size to *Idia americalis* but more evenly shaded with smoky to yellowish-gray and not paler towards the base or along the costa. Lines are darker but not as heavy as in *americalis*. Both the orbicular and reniform are usually contrastingly pale yellow, although in some individuals the spots can be blackish and much darker than the ground color. The terminal line is broken into a series of spots, unlike the continuous line found in *americalis* (Forbes, 1954). *Aemula* is similar in pattern and forewing color to *Idia "concisa"* but has a more fuscous hindwing that is nearly concolorous with the forewing (Forbes, 1954). The median band of the forewing is also usually more diffuse in *aemula* than in *"concisa"* (Lafontaine and Schmidt, 2010).

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: This one of our most ubiquitous species, occurring virtually all habitats found across the state.

FOOD: The larvae are probably generalized detritivores, feeding on dead leaves, fungi, and other organic matter (Forbes, 1954; Wagner et al., 2011). Individuals have been found in the nests of squirrels, mice, and hornets, and in earthball fungi (Wagner et al., 2011). They appear to commonly skeletonize dead leaves, but the caterpillars have rarely been found in the wild. John Petranka successfully reared an adult from Orange County. The larva was one of several that were found in what appeared to be a squirrel nest that had fallen from a tree. The leaves inside were heavily skeletonized and the larva fed to some extent on dead oak leaves before pupating.

OBSERVATION METHODS: Comes well to both black lights and bait. Even though the adults are common in many areas of the state, the L=larvae have only rarely been observed in the wild (Wagner, et al., 2011).

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S5]

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

COMMENTS: