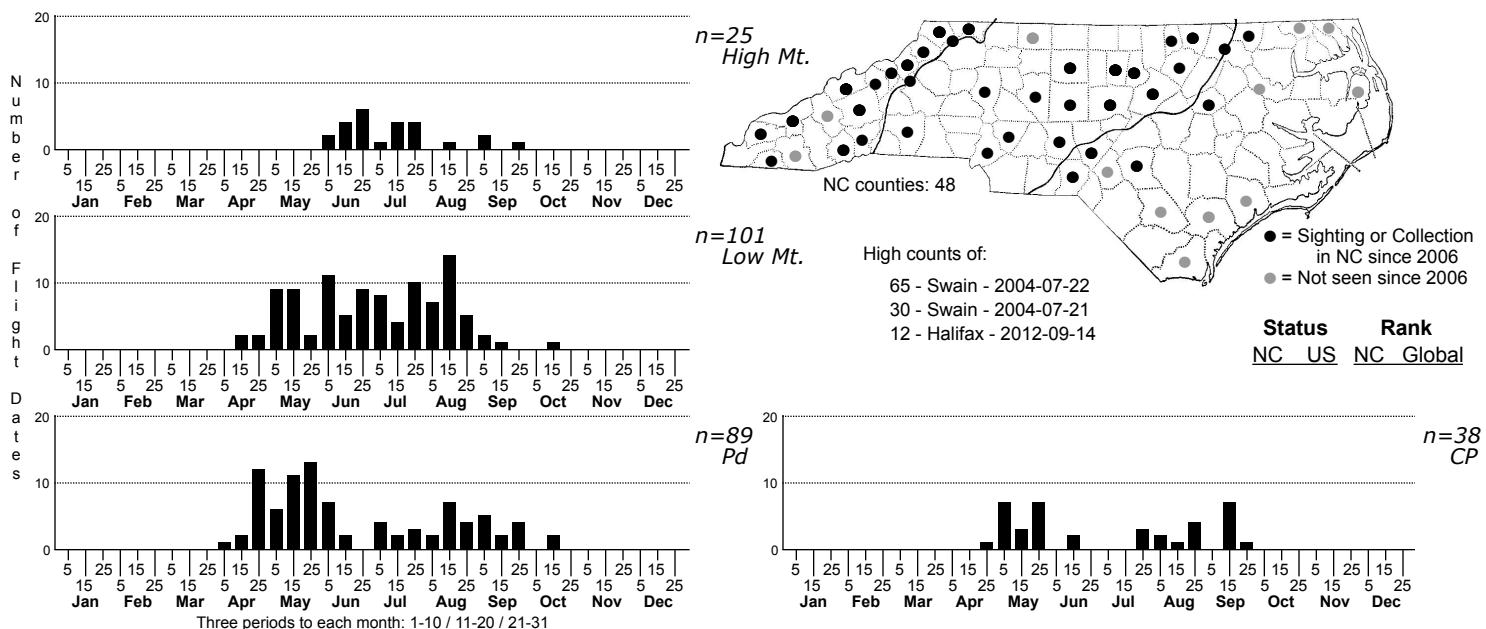


Zanclognatha cruralis Early Zanclognatha



FAMILY: Erebidae SUBFAMILY: Herminiinae TRIBE:

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of thirteen species in this genus that occur in North America north of Mexico (Lafontaine and Schmidt, 2010; 2013; Wagner and McCabe, 2011), all of which have been recorded in North Carolina

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: This species and *Z. obscuripennis* are very similar in size and markings. The lines in both species are generally strongly marked and even rather than waved. The antemedian is bent just below the costa but otherwise runs fairly straight across the wings; the postmedian is sinuous but not dentate, and the subterminal is straight and typically conspicuous. Forbes (1954) describes *cruralis* as pale clay color to light fuscous, particularly in the first brood; second brood individuals can be much darker. The subterminal line is characteristically dark and contrasting with the paler ground color; if bordered by a pale line, the dark line is much more prominent. In *Z. obscuripennis*, the ground color of the forewings is typically darker, with the pale line of the subterminal more prominent.

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: Our records come mainly from wet to mesic hardwood forests, including bottomland hardwoods, mesic slopes, cove forests, and northern hardwoods. Only a few come from xeric woodlands, such as maritime forests or sand ridges.

FOOD: Larvae have been found on a wide variety of plant species, including hardwood trees and shrubs, forbs, and conifers. Wagner et al. (2011) specifically list beech (*Fagus*), hazel (*Corylus*), hemlock (*Tsuga*), maple (*Acer*), nettle (*Urtica*), and Red Spruce (*Picea rubens*). While dead and wilted leaves are readily eaten in captivity, this species is also frequently found up in foliage rather than on the ground as in other members of this genus.

OBSERVATION METHODS: Comes to blacklights. Larvae are frequently found by beating foliage.

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: