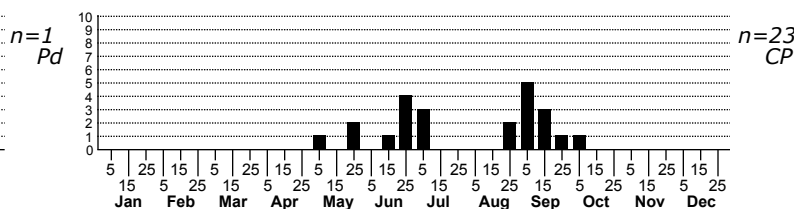
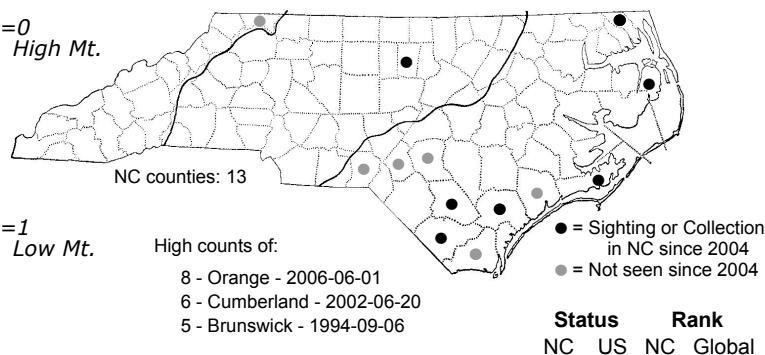
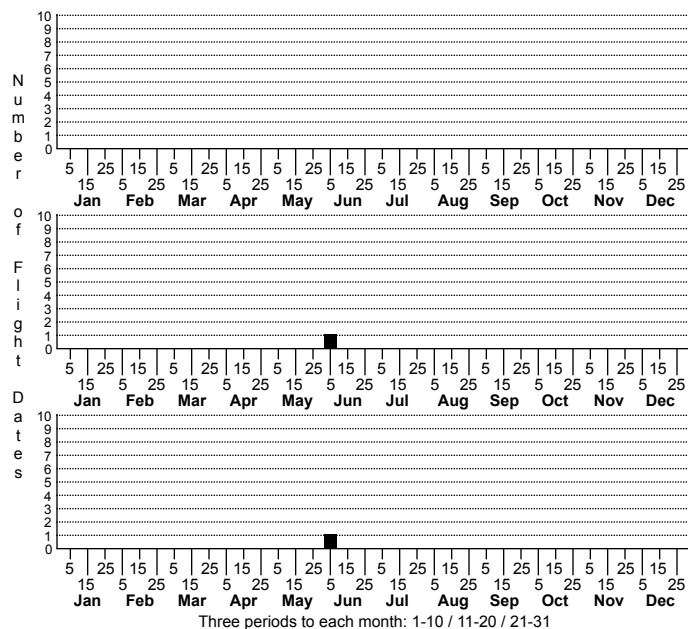


Macrochilo louisiana Louisiana Macrochilo Moth



FAMILY: Erebiidae SUBFAMILY: Herminiinae TRIBE:

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of seven species in this genus that occur in North America north of Mexico (Lafontaine and Schmidt, 2010), six of which have been recorded in North Carolina

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS: MPG, BugGuide, BAMONA, BOLD

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1954, as *Hormisa louisiana*); Ferguson (1982)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: A medium-small, pale tan Deltoid. At rest, the forewings and body form an isosceles triangle, with only the slightly curved outer margins breaking the linear outline. The head, body, and ground color of the forewings are pale tan. The females are nearly unmarked and the males are marked mainly with a two dark discal dots, and similar points representing the transverse lines; the postmedian can also be more complete but very thin, often preceded by a darker shade. The hindwings are paler than the forewings (Ferguson, 1982). Several other species in this genus are similar in size and coloration but usually have more complete transverse lines or longitudinal streaks.

DISTRIBUTION: Most of our records come from the Coastal Plain, but its presence in all three provinces of the state indicates that it could occur statewide

FLIGHT COMMENT: Our data indicate that there may be two distinct flights

HABITAT: All of our records come from shoreline habitats, most from the margins of shallow ponds. In the Outer Coastal Plain these interdune ponds on the barrier islands; Carolina Bay lakes and depression ponds further inland; and beaver ponds and borrow pits in the Sandhills and Piedmont. Our one record from the mountains comes from a river shoreline.

FOOD: Unknown, but at least some other members of this genus feed on the withered leaves of sedges

OBSERVATION_METHODS: Appears to come well to blacklights and other lights; we have no records from bait

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G4 [S3S4]

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

COMMENTS: Forbes (1954) stated that this species was rare everywhere except the coastal strip of Florida. Ferguson (1982) similarly regarded it as rare in the North. Its use of shallow impoundments may indicate that it was once primarily associated with beaver ponds and may have become drastically reduced when beavers were all but extirpated over most of North America. Conversely, the restoration of beavers and their wetland habitats may be leading to a re-expansion of this species, particularly in the Piedmont and Low Mountains.