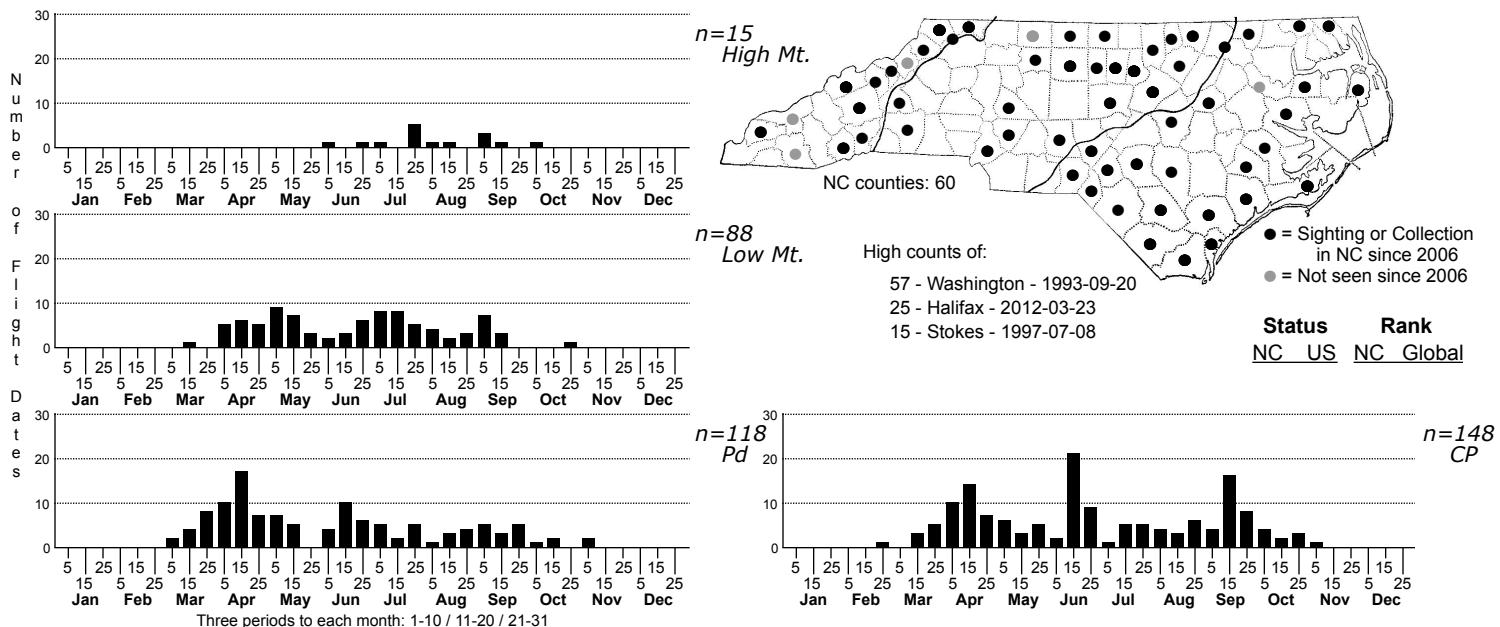


# *Lascoria ambigualis* Ambiguous Moth



FAMILY: Erebidae SUBFAMILY: Herminiinae TRIBE:  
TAXONOMIC COMMENTS:

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1954)

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

ID COMMENTS: Males are easy to identify based on the notch they possess on the outer margin of the forewing. Females, however, can be difficult to distinguish from both males and females of *Phalaenophana pyramusalis*. Differences in the color of the spots is one usually reliable way to separate the two: in *Lascoria*, the orbicular and reniform are white or cream-colored; in *Phalaenophana*, they are black.

DISTRIBUTION: Occurs statewide in North Carolina.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: Wagner et al. (2011) describe its habitats as including shrubby fields, woodlands, and forests. Our records span the entire range of habitats in North Carolina, from maritime dunes, bottomlands, swamps, savannas, sandridges, peatlands, mesic hardwoods, xeric woodlands, and high elevation summits.

FOOD: Larvae are highly polyphagous, feeding on both dead and living plants, including graminoids, forbs, and hardwood shrubs. Wagner et al. (2011) specifically list holly (*Ilex*), morning-glory (*Ipomoea*), blackberry (*Rubus*), and *Verbesina*. We do not have any feeding records in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION METHODS:

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: