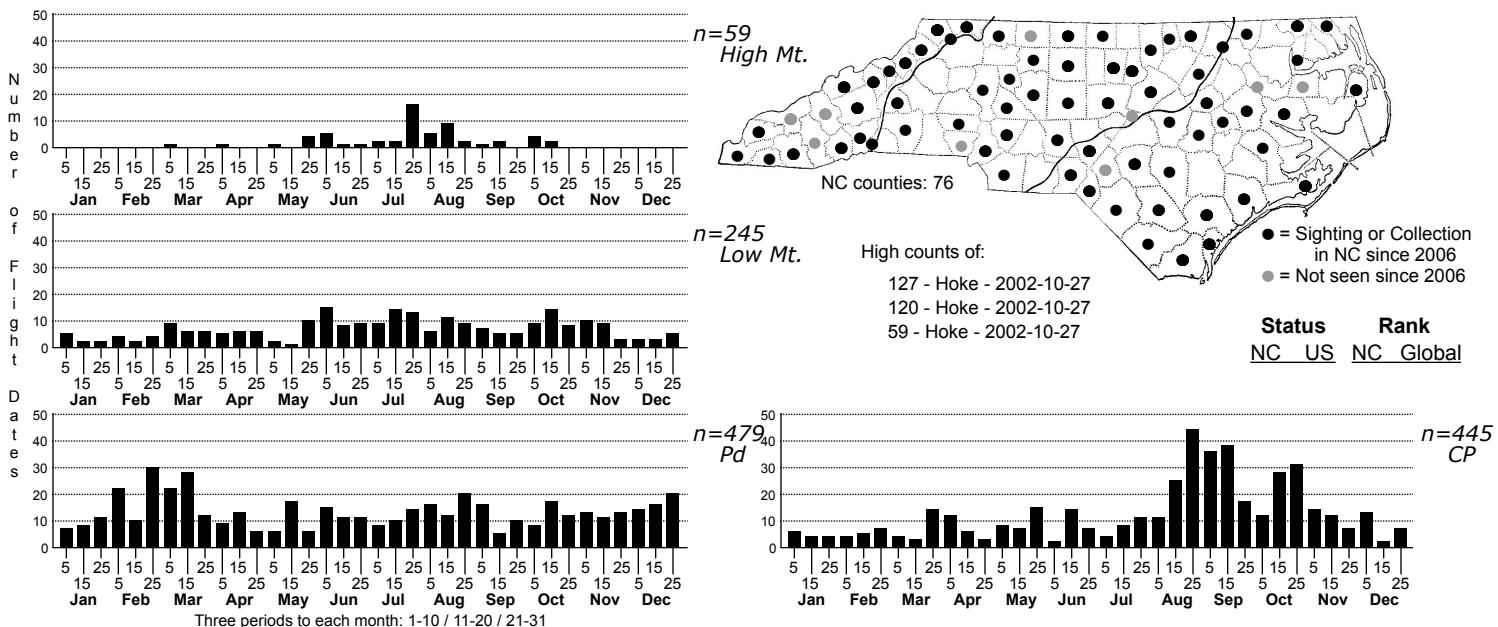


Hypena scabra Green Cloverworm Moth



FAMILY: Erebidae SUBFAMILY: Hypeninae TRIBE:

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of 29 species in this genus that occur in North America north of Mexico (Lafontaine and Schmidt, 2010). Fifteen species have been recorded in North Carolina.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984; as *Plathympena scabra*); Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

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

ID COMMENTS: The forewings typically have a dark medial patch located below the costa, bordered to the front and towards the inner margin by a paler brown shade; females are typically lighter and more mottled than the males. Both the orbicular and reniform are marked by raised black scales and the most conspicuous mark is a straight, raised row of black scales that forms the lower part of the postmedian line (Forbes, 1954). The upper portion of this line is more angular, with a rearward point below the cell that is somewhat similar but not as pronounced as that in *Hypena humuli*. Hindwings are grayish-brown.

This species and *H. humuli* differ from other members of this genus in their possession of tufts of black scales at the orbicular and reniform spots and, in the case of scabra, by a straight-running lower portion of the postmedian that is also composed of raised scales.

DISTRIBUTION: Found throughout the state, from Mt. Mitchell to the Outer Banks.

FLIGHT COMMENT: This species flies throughout the year and can be common even in mid-winter.

HABITAT: This is one of our most ubiquitous and omnipresent species. Habitats range from maritime dunes and forests on the barrier islands to high elevation stands of northern hardwoods.

FOOD: Larvae are polyphagous, showing a preference for members of the pea family but also feeding on a wide range of other forbs, shrubs, and trees. Among the hosts listed by Wagner et al. (2011) are ragweed (*Ambrosia*), indigo-bush (*Amorpha*), birch (*Betula*), New Jersey Tea (*Ceanothus americanus*), hackberry (*Celtis*), strawberry (*Fragaria*), *Lespedeza*, beans (*Phaseolus*), Garden Pea (*Pisum sativum*), poplar (*Populus*), cherry (*Prunus*), locust (*Robinia*), willow (*Salix*), *Sida*, and vetch (*Vicia*).

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: