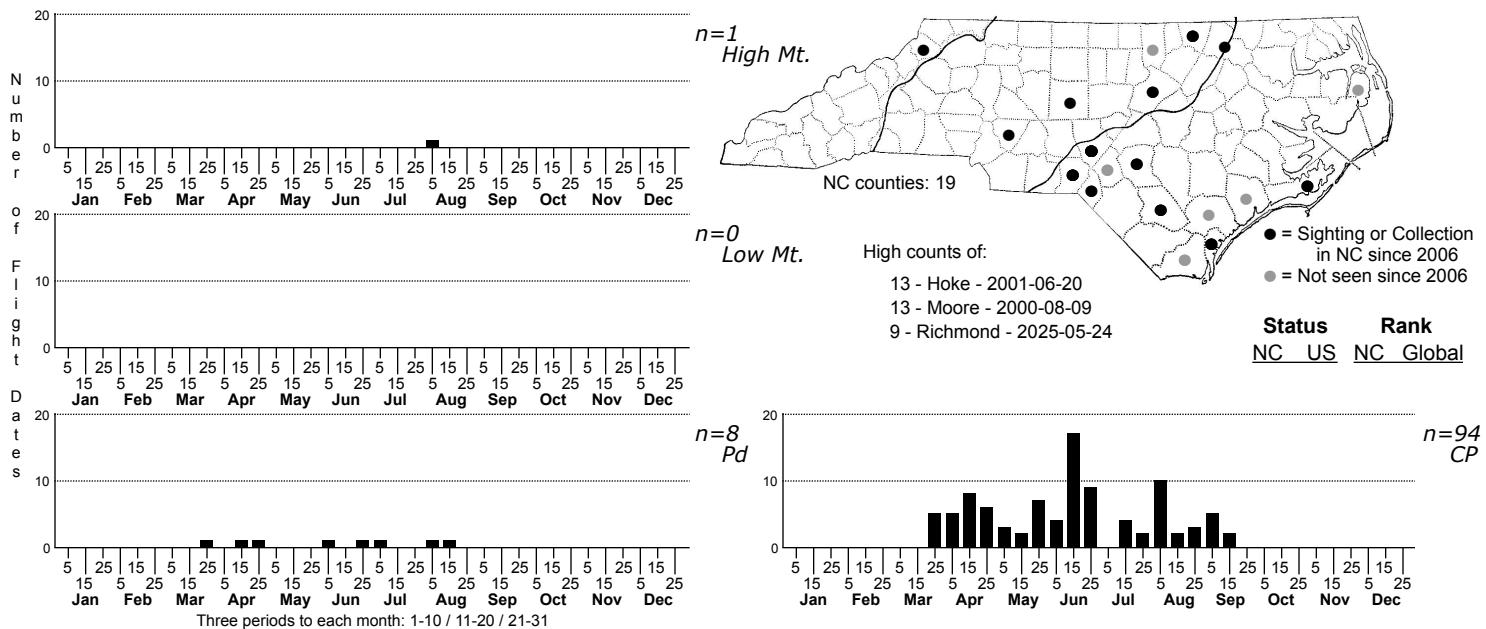


Hemeroplanis scopulepes Variable Tropic Moth



FAMILY: Erebidae SUBFAMILY: Phytometrinae TRIBE:
TAXONOMIC COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

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

ID COMMENTS: The ground color varies from yellowish to tan to reddish brown. The antemedian is fairly even but has an inward point at the radial vein. The postmedian is bicolored, dark basally followed by pale. It is sharply bent below the costa but then runs fairly smoothly to the inner margin. A median line is typically present, running from a dark spot on the costa to the reniform and then across to the inner margin. A subterminal line, consisting of a series of dark smudges or bicolored dark and white spots, runs an irregular course across the wing. The orbicular spot is dark and located just distad from the inward point on the antemedian. The reniform is fairly large and dark brown. The hindwings are similar in color and pattern to the forewings. *Hemeroplanis habitalis* is smaller and typically reddish-brown. The orbicular is obsolete (contrary to Forbes' key).

DISTRIBUTION: Most of our records come from the Coastal Plain but with sparse observations as far west as the low mountains.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Possibly two to three broods, from early spring to early fall.

HABITAT: Our records come mainly from open, dry-xeric woodlands and barrens. Sandy habitats are used in the Coastal Plain but this species also occurs in barrens, glades, and dry ridges in the Piedmont.

FOOD: Larvae have been reared in captivity on clover (Wagner et al., 2011), making legumes a possibility. The hosts used in the wild are apparently unrecorded, but this species appears to be fairly common in open, herbaceous habitats, including "bean dips" in the Sandhills.

OBSERVATION METHODS: Often flushed during the day.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S3S4]

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

COMMENTS: