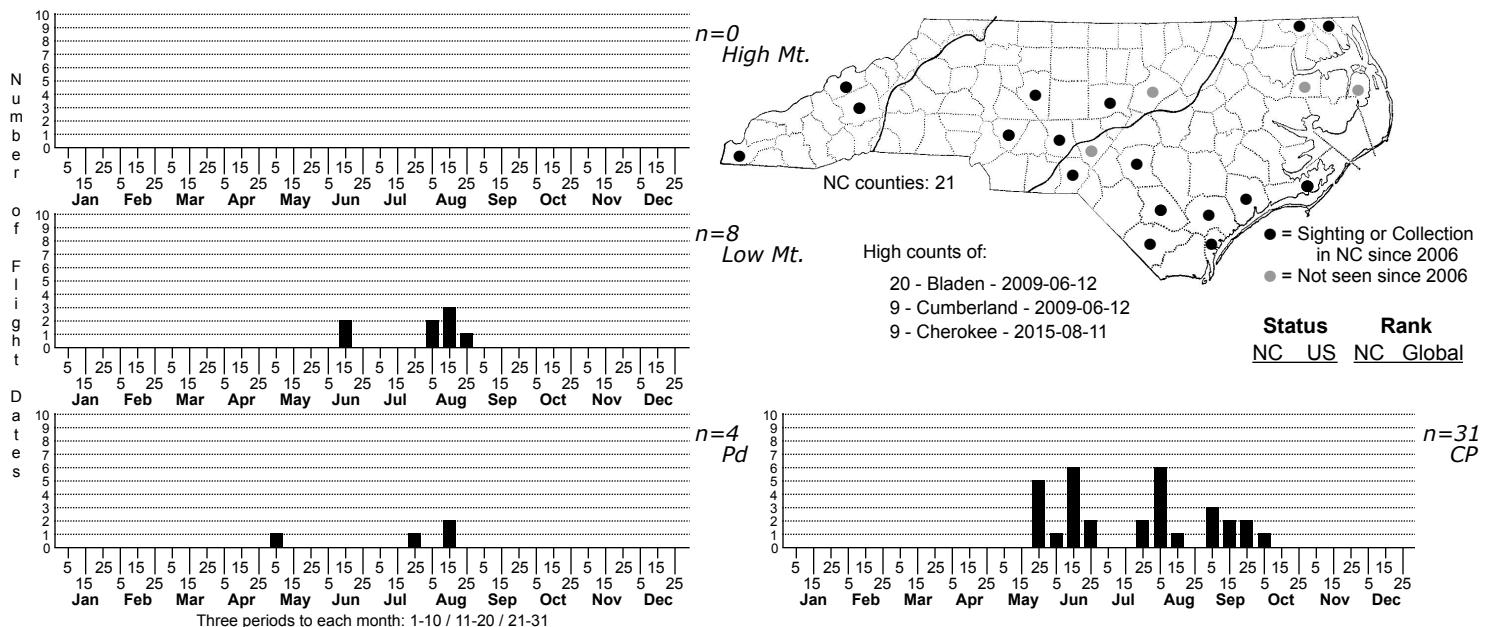


# *Arugisa latiorella* Watson's Arugisa



FAMILY: Erebidae SUBFAMILY: Scolecampinae TRIBE:

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of three species in this genus that occur in North America north of Mexico (Lafontaine and Schmidt, 2010). Wagner et al. (2011) place this genus in the Hypenodinae, along with *Nigetia*, *Sigela*, and *Abablemma*.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984, as *Arugisa watsoni*)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Richards (1941); Forbes (1954, as *Arugisa watsoni*)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: A medium-small, medium brown Erebidae. The ground color of the forewings is a fairly even reddish to slightly bronzy brown. The transverse lines are all single, thin, and dark brown. Both the orbicular and reniform are represented by dark points; the orbicular may be surrounded with a dark suffusion (Richards, 1941). The head, thorax, and abdomen are also fairly uniform brown, but with dark speckling; the thorax has a small posterior tuft with a whitish tip. Hindwings are grayish brown. *Arugisa lutea* is smaller but somewhat similar in coloration and patterning, but usually has a more yellowish tint and more extensive dark shading on the inner sides of the transverse lines, particularly the subterminal (Richards, 1941). Forbes (1954) also notes that lines are less continuous in *lutea* and often accented by dark spots. Worn males can be distinguished by the structural features of the palps and leg tufts; females may need to be dissected.

DISTRIBUTION: Found from one end of the state to the other but not yet recorded over large areas

FLIGHT COMMENT: Records in North Carolina come from late May to October. We have too few records, however, to determine if there are any separate flights

HABITAT: Most of our records come from fairly xeric sandhills habitats, including a large number from the sand rims bordering Carolina Bays. At least a few records, however, come from peatlands and other wet to mesic habitats.

FOOD: Hosts are poorly documented. Covell (1984) lists grasses, and Robinson et al. (2010) list the non-native Kentucky Bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*). We do not have any feeding records in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION METHODS: Comes to blacklights to some extent and we have at least one record from bait

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G4 S3? [S3S4]

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

COMMENTS: We have few records for this species, especially compared to the number we have for *Arugisa lutea*. Although *A. latiorella* appears to be more of a habitat specialist than *lutea*, we do not know if it is actually as rare as the number of records indicate, or is simply more difficult to detect. More information on the host plants and habitat associations might help clarify its status.