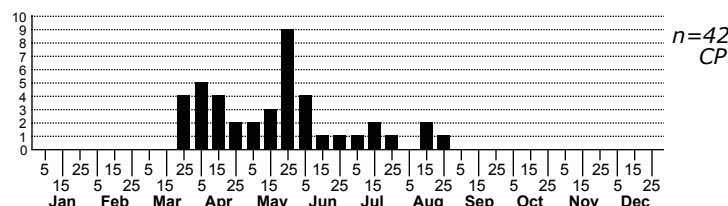
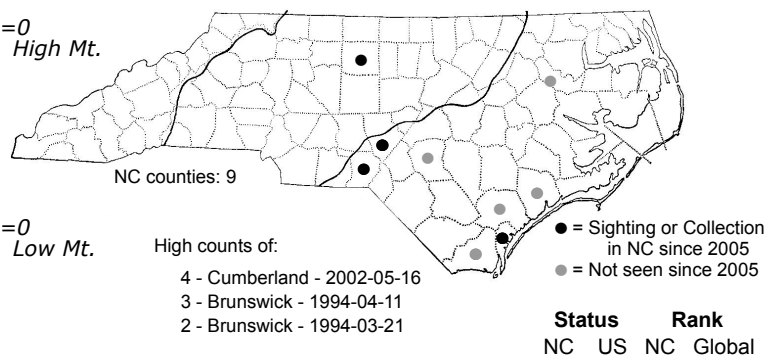
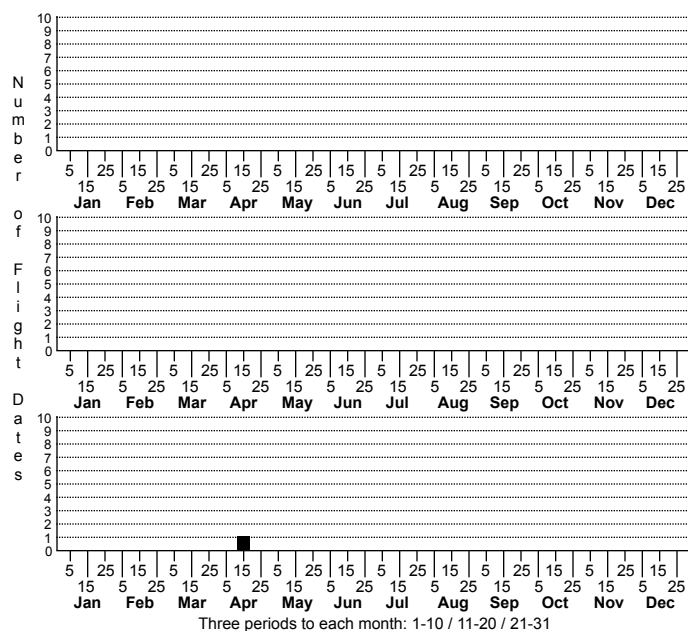


# *Pseudanthracia coracias* Pseudanthracia Moth



FAMILY: Erebidae SUBFAMILY: Erebinae TRIBE: Ophiuini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: The sole member of its genus; closely related to *Zale* and sometimes included within it (e.g., Forbes, 1954); differs mainly in the male genitalia, which are much simpler and more symmetric than in *Zale* (Forbes, 1954)

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: (not in either of the field guides)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1954)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Forbes (1954)

ID COMMENTS: Coal black or dark ash, sometimes with umber markings; reniform is usually pale. Similar to *Z. aeruginosa*, which is sympatric, but lacks the green scaling of that species (sometimes has bands of pale frosting). Also similar to *Z. undularis*, whose range is located farther to the west, but lacks the pale lunule located in the bight of the postmedian opposite the cell (Forbes, 1954). Differs from other black forms of *Zale* in the subterminal line running less obliquely across the forewing, forming two strong waves; also differs strongly in the male reproductive structures (Forbes, 1954).

DISTRIBUTION: All of our records come from the Coastal Plain

FLIGHT COMMENT: Adults fly throughout the growing season with maybe two or more distinct peaks

HABITAT: Most of our records come from dry woodlands, including Maritime Evergreen Forests, Coastal Fringe Sandhills, and Pine-Scrub Oak Sandhills. The one exception is a record from the Devils Gut TNC Preserve located in the Roanoke River floodplain.

FOOD: Larvae feed on oaks (Forbes, 1954). Tietz (1972) also mention Black Locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*), which is not native to the areas where this species occurs in North Carolina; species of dwarf locusts might be possible, however.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: Comes moderately well to lights and to bait.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G4 SNR [S2S3]

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

COMMENTS: Appears to be a habitat specialist and may be vulnerable to reduction and fragmentation of sandhills and other dry oak habitats in the Coastal Plain.