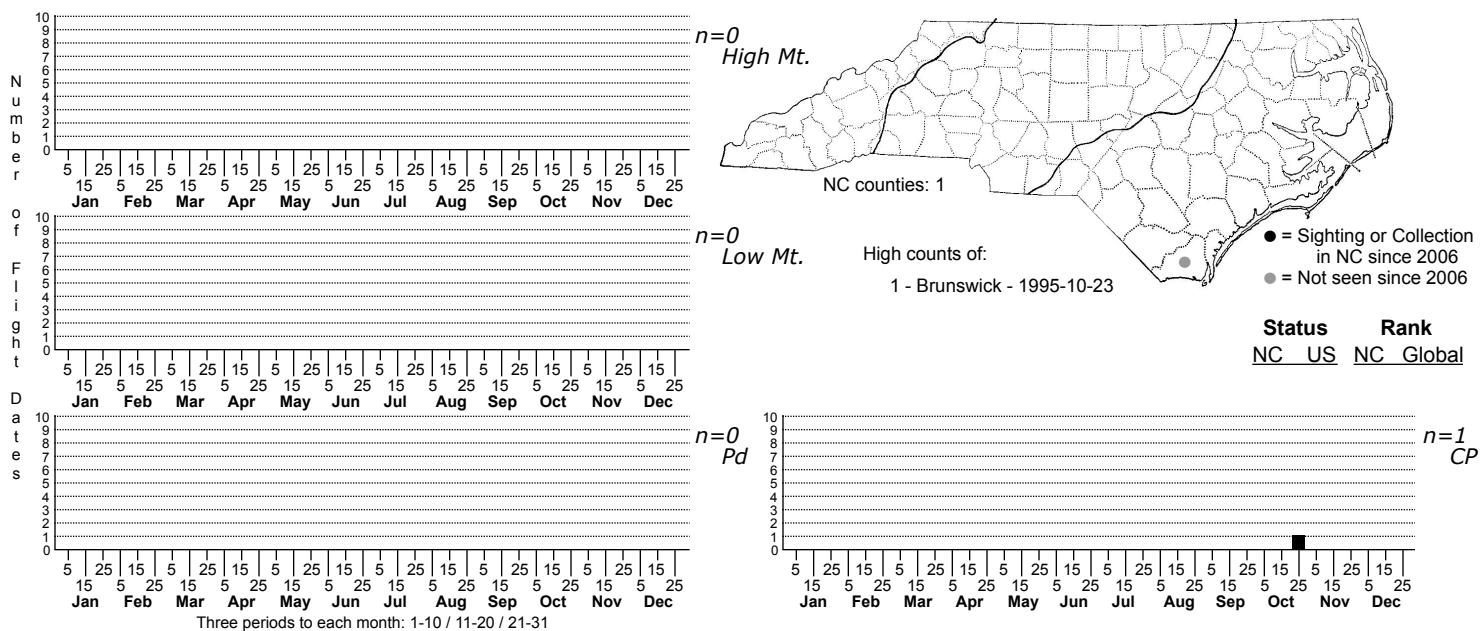


***Zale fictilis*** None



FAMILY: Erebidae SUBFAMILY: Erebinae TRIBE: Ophiusini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of 39 species in this genus that occur north of Mexico, 23 of which have been recorded in North Carolina

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Not in either field guide

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Smith (1908)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: A grayish brown Zale. Males tend to be grayish, with few contrasting areas, and are unlikely to be confused with other species of our Zales. Females, however, are browner and more similar to the brown forms of lunata. The most diagnostic mark (Smith, 1908) appears to be the postmedian, which is a fine, single, dentate line in fictilis but is doubled and less sharply cusped in lunata, particularly between the cell and the inner margin. The reniform is also outlined by yellowish scales in fictilis but not outlined at all in lunata (Smith, 1908).

DISTRIBUTION: This is a primarily Central American species whose northernmost limit appears to be represented by a single specimen collected during the Asian Gypsy Moth Non-target Impacts Study (Hall et al., 1999b).

FLIGHT COMMENT: Recorded in October but too little is known about this species in North Carolina to determine its flight distribution.

HABITAT: The sole North Carolina record is from a Coastal Plain Small Stream Swamp

FOOD: Larvae have been reported on *Citrus* in the Caribbean (Robinson et al., 2010). While one member of the Rutaceae - Hercules' Club (*Zanthoxylum clava-hercules*) - is native to maritime forests and shell middens along the North Carolina coast, it is unlikely to occur at the inland swamp forest where our one specimen of *Z. fictilis* was collected.

OBSERVATION METHODS: Collected using 15 watt blacklight trap; like other *Zale* species, probably comes better to bait than to light.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SU

STATE PROTECTION: Not given any legal protection, although permits are required to collect it on state parks and other public lands.

COMMENTS: Too little is known about the residency status (it may be just a rare migrant or stray), distribution, or habitat associations to determine the conservation status of this species in North Carolina. Currently, it seems best to place it on the NHP Watchlist until more can be learned.