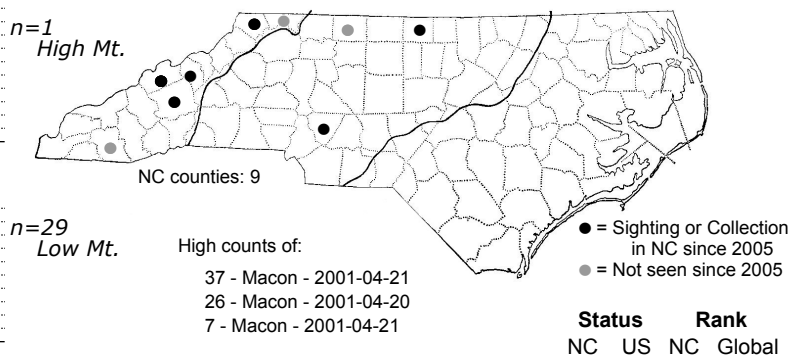
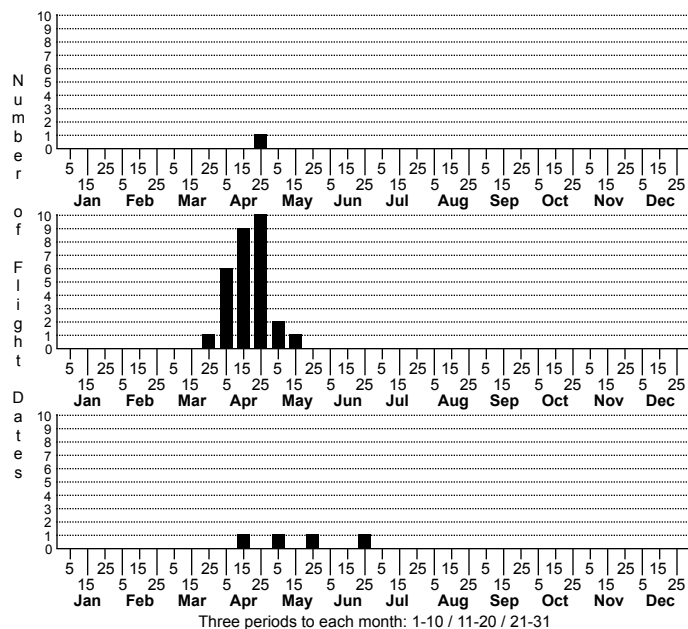


## *Zale duplicata* Pine False Looper Moth



FAMILY: Erebidae SUBFAMILY: Erebinae TRIBE: Ophiuini

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: Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: McDunnough (1943); Forbes (1954)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Forbes (1954); Wagner (2005); Wagner et al. (2011)

ID COMMENTS: *Duplicata* is one of the boldest-marked species in this group, with a pattern of strongly contrasting bands of gray, black, and brown. The antemedian area is usually pale gray, bounded outwardly by a black triple median line enclosing the black reniform. Differs from *squamularis* by the inner edge of the medial line running well before the reniform. Differs from *submediana* and *bethunei*, which have a similar medial line, by the paler gray antemedian and subterminal areas; some specimens may need to be dissected to conclusively identify them (Forbes, 1954).

DISTRIBUTION: Probably occurs throughout the Mountains, as well as at a few monadnocks located in the western Piedmont. It was not, however, recorded on the North Carolina side of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park ATBI.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Has a single spring flight

HABITAT: Recorded in North Carolina in both lowland areas, e.g., along the New River, and drier ridges, all with White Pine probably present.

FOOD: Larvae are essentially monophagous, feeding only on White Pine (*Pinus strobus*) in our area (Wagner et al., 2011).

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: Appears to come well to blacklights, with records of 26 and 37 being collected in single traps. Like other *Zales*, it probably also comes well to bait.

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: Although an uncommonly collected species in North Carolina, too little is known about the distribution and habitat affinities of this species to estimate its conservation needs.