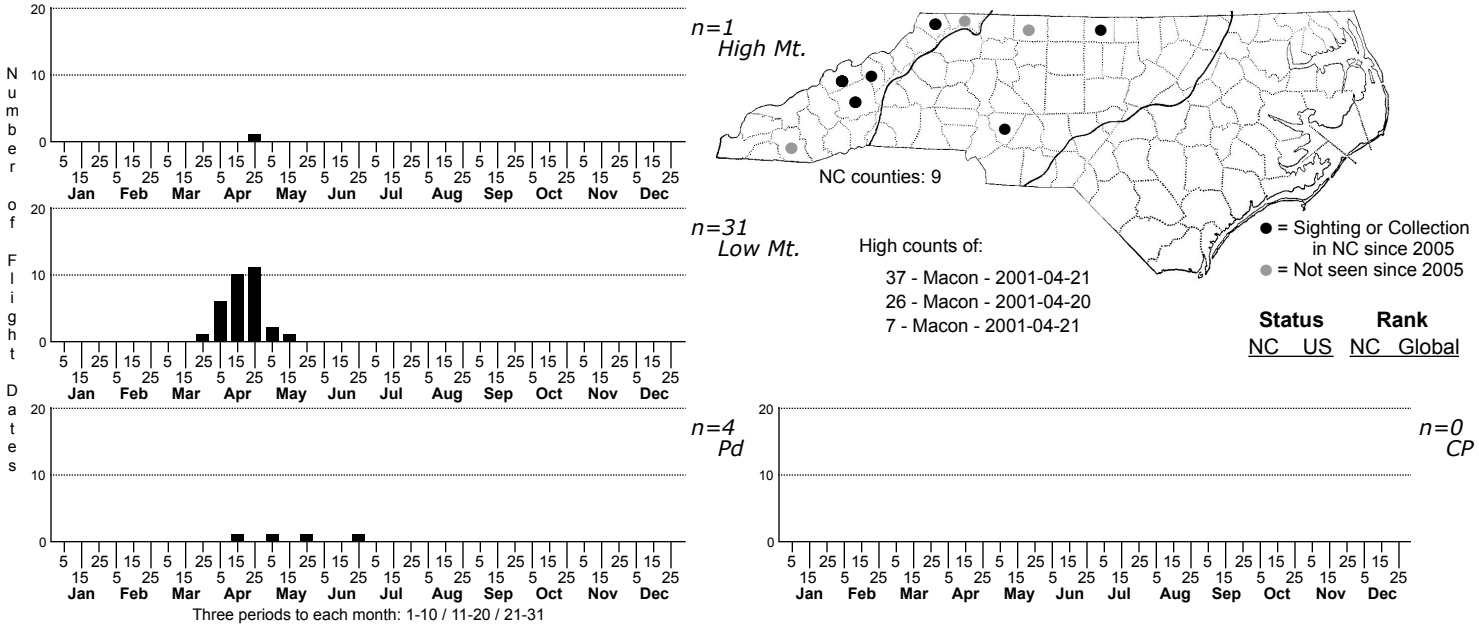
# ***Zale duplicata*** Pine False Looper Moth




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: 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.