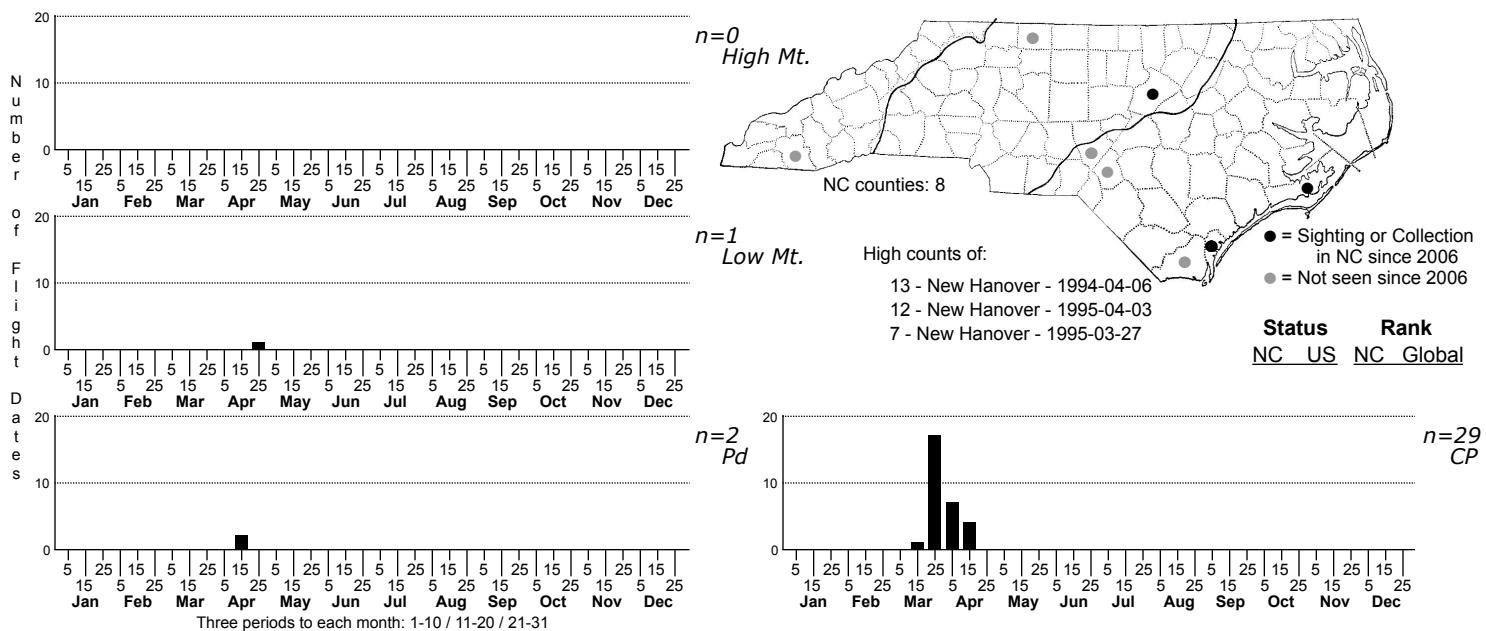


Zale calycanthata Double-banded Zale



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: Covell (1984)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1954)

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

ID COMMENTS: A large dark brown Zale with bands of strongly contrasting pale gray in the antemedian and subterminal areas (Forbes, 1954; Covell, 1984). The postmedian and subterminal lines run close together, forming a single band over most of the width of the wing; the inner portion corresponding to the postmedian is pale colored and is followed by a darker shade representing the subterminal (Forbes, 1954).

DISTRIBUTION: Scattered records exist from all parts of the state except for the barrier islands and High Mountains

FLIGHT COMMENT: Appears to have a single flight in the spring

HABITAT: The majority of our records come from dry to xeric sandhills habitats in both the outer Coastal Plain and Fall-line Sandhills; a few also come from dry ridges in the Mountains and Piedmont. Only a very few possibly come from more mesic habitats where Sweet-shrub occurs.

FOOD: Host plant range needs to be confirmed but Wagner et al. (2011) list oaks (*Quercus*) as the main host plants, although captive larvae will also feed on apple (*Malus*) and cherry (*Prunus*). Association with Sweet-shrub (*Calycanthus floridus*) was doubted by Forbes (1954), and this species does not occur in the southern portion of the outer Coastal Plain where we have several records for the moth.

OBSERVATION METHODS: Appears to come well to blacklights, with 12-13 specimens being collected in single traps; probably also comes well to bait, like other Zales

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S2S3]

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

COMMENTS: This species is probably a specialist on dry-to-xeric oak forests. As such, it is likely to be affected by habitat loss and fragmentation. Currently, too little is known about its exact distribution and habitat affinities in the state to estimate its conservation status.