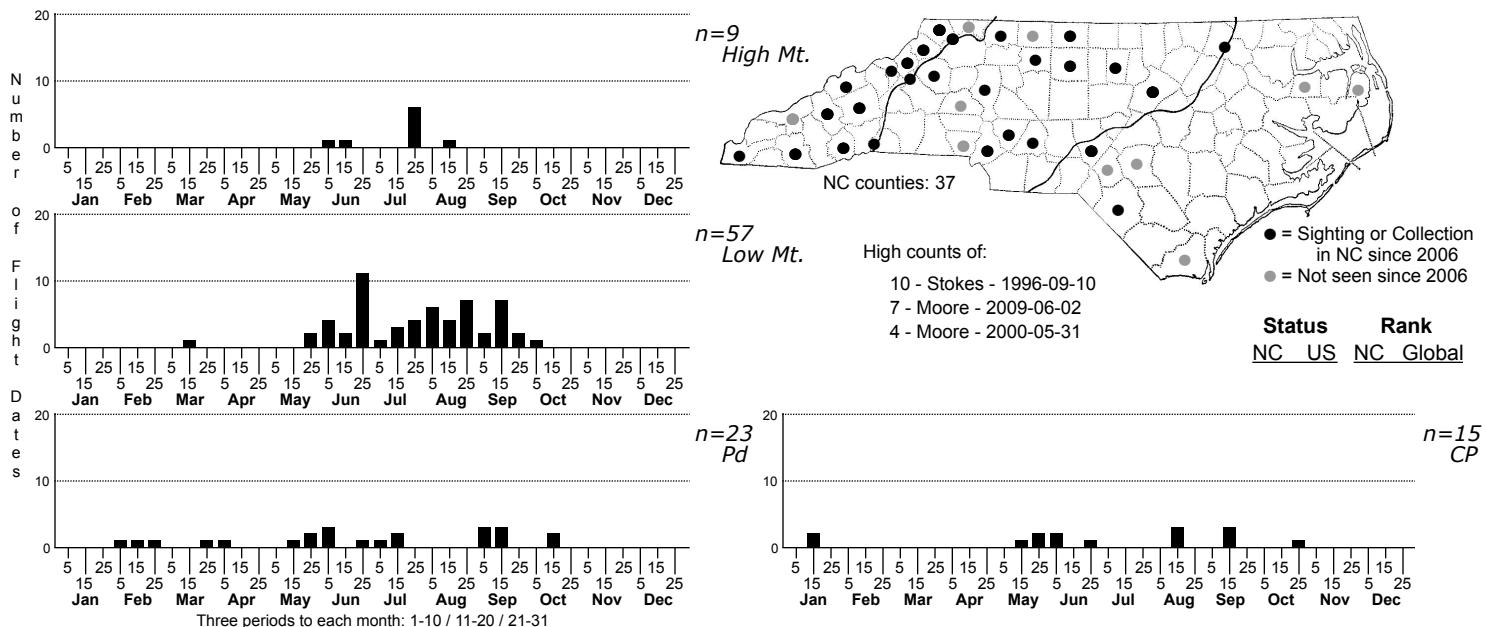


Caenurgina erechtea Forage Looper Moth



FAMILY: Erebidae SUBFAMILY: Erebinae TRIBE: Eucliini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984); Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

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

ID COMMENTS: This species is sexually dimorphic. The forewings of males are mouse-gray and crossed by two blackish, contrasting bands that are widely separated and usually edged with narrow lines, especially on the lower sides; the antemedian in particular is usually pale and well-marked (Forbes, 1954). The subterminal is composed of a series of dark dots, with strong two dark marks below the apex. The orbicular is a dot and the reniform is typically obscure. Females are duller and browner and have only faint bands, if any. Both sexes of *Caenurgina crassiuscula* are similar to the males of *erechtea* but are much browner (Forbes, 1954). The two bars are more diffuse in *crassiuscula* and usually only partly outlined; the upper bar, when complete, forms a wide loop that either joins or nearly touches the lower bar near the inner margin (Forbes, 1954). Males of these two species may need to be dissected in order to definitely identify them.

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: Our records come from open, herbaceous habitats as well as forested and woodlands, probably mainly along edges or openings.

FOOD: Larvae reportedly feed on grasses, legumes, and ragweed (<i>Ambrosia</i> spp.) (Robinson et al., 2010; Wagner et al., 2011). We do not have any feeding records in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S5]

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

COMMENTS: