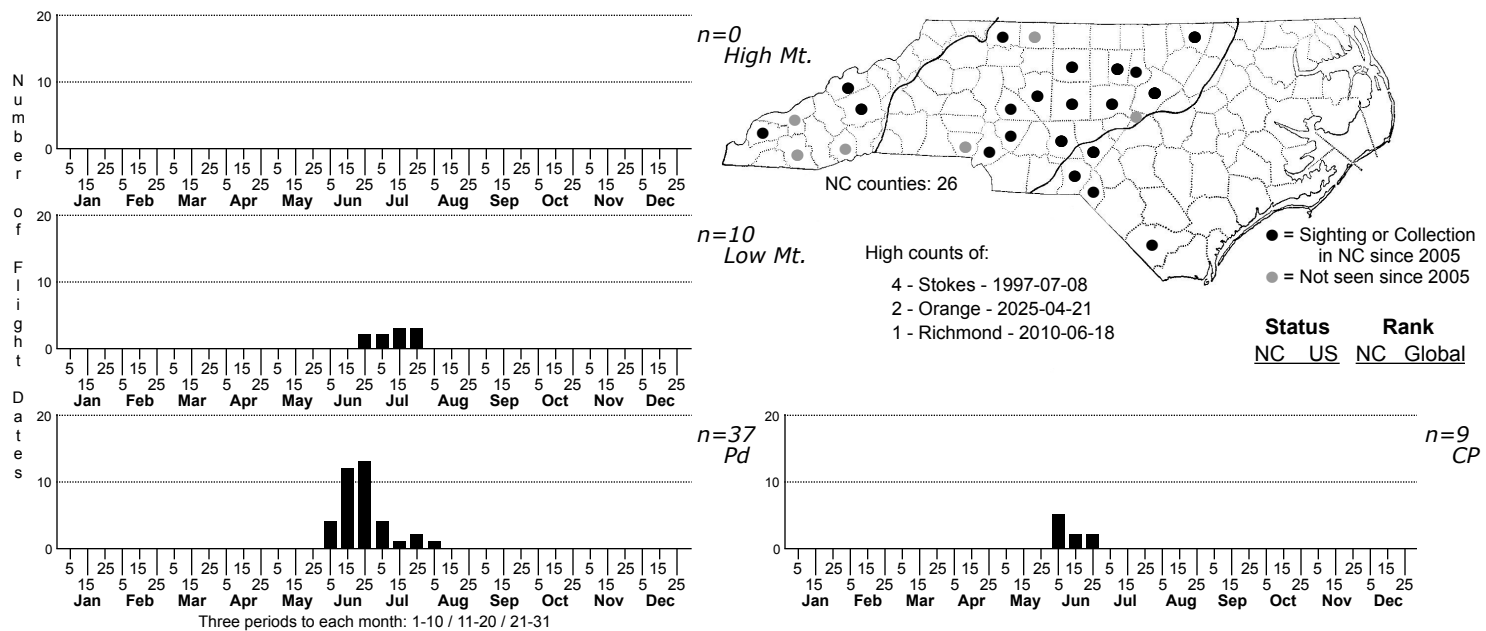


## *Catocala epione* Epione Underwing



FAMILY: Erebidae SUBFAMILY: Erebinae TRIBE: Catocalini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of 103 species in this genus that occur in North America (Lafontaine and Schmidt, 2010, 2015), 67 of which have been recorded in North Carolina. Included by Barnes and McDunnough (1918) in their Group III (also adopted by Forbes, 1954), which also contains *Catocala consors*. Both are Hickory-feeding species.

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1954); Sargent (1976)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Forbes (1954)

ID COMMENTS: A medium-small, blackish Underwing with a bright white fringe on its hindwings. The ground color of the forewings is dark gray, with blackish shading in the median area; the reniform is largely brown and subreniform is pale. The antemedian and postmedian lines are jet black and are shaded inwardly and outwardly, respectively, with brown; the brown band on the outside of the postmedian line is particularly conspicuous and is followed by a diffuse pale subterminal line. The hindwings are jet black but bordered by a pure white fringe with no dark checks (Forbes, 1954; Sargent, 1976). No other predominantly dark underwing has the gleaming white hindwing fringe.

DISTRIBUTION: Possibly occurring statewide, although we do not yet have any records from either the Barrier Islands or High Mountains

FLIGHT COMMENT: Univoltine, with adults flying primarily in June and July

HABITAT: Our records come from a wide variety of hardwood forests, ranging from bottomlands to sandhills to dry ridges.

FOOD: Larvae are stenophagous, feeding on hickories (*Carya* spp.). Wagner et al. (2011) specifically list Pignut Hickory (*C. glabra*), Shagbark Hickory (*C. ovata*), Sand Hickory (*C. pallida*), and Mockernut Hickory (*C. tomentosa*). Barnes and MacDunnough (1918) noted that larvae refused all foods in captivity except hickories, and Sargent (1976) reared it on Shagbark Hickory. We do not have any feeding records in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION METHODS: Comes to blacklights to some extent and also to bait. This species is easily flushed during the day; a number of our records come from daytime searches.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S4S5]

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

COMMENTS: Occurs widely across the state, feeds on common and widespread host plants, and occupies a variety of hardwood forests. Appears to be secure in North Carolina.