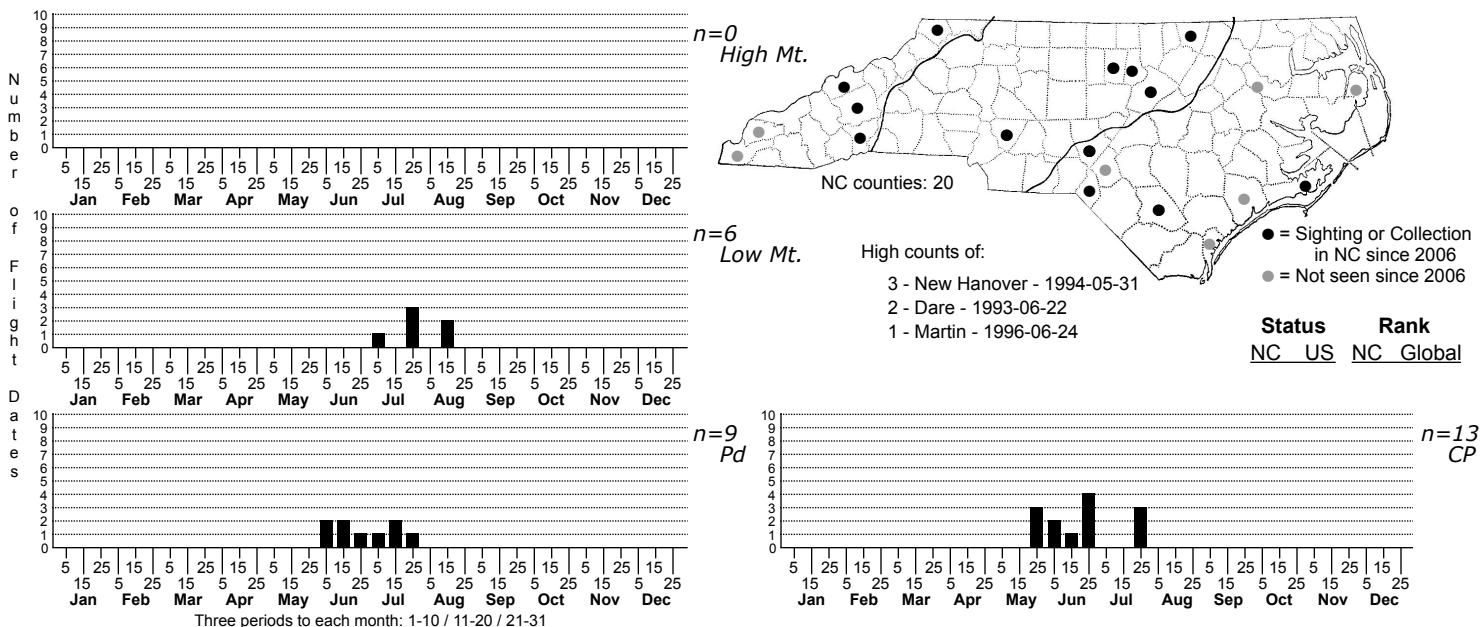


# *Catocala umbrosa* Umber Underwing



FAMILY: Erebidae SUBFAMILY: Erebinae TRIBE: Catocalini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of 103 species in this genus that occur in North America (Gall and Hawks, 2010; Kons and Borth, 2015a,b), 67 of which have been recorded in North Carolina.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Brou (2002a,b)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The pattern is very similar to that of *Catocala ilia*, with both species showing a fairly wide range of variation (see Brou, 2002a). *C. umbrosa* is generally brown to brownish gray, whereas *C. ilia* ranges from dark blackish-gray to a somewhat lighter blue-gray. *Umbrosa* generally shows less contrast between its ground color and markings. In particular, the border and/or filling of the reniform spot is usually a much bolder white in *ilia* but much less conspicuous in *umbrosa*. In examining North Carolina specimens (S. Hall, pers. obs.), the antemedian line in *umbrosa* appears to be more excurved and more unundulating, especially towards the inner margin; in *ilia*, the antemedian usually runs straighter across the wing and is usually much more heavily marked. The basal area in *ilia* is also usually much darker than the median area, whereas the two areas are more concolorous in *umbrosa*.

DISTRIBUTION: We have records from all provinces of the state

FLIGHT COMMENT: Univoltine, with records from late May to late July

HABITAT: Most of our records come from dry-to-xeric oak-hickory woodlands, including Coastal Fringe Sandhills and Maritime Scrub, corresponding with associations observed elsewhere (Wagner et al., 2011). However, we have at least some records (one confirmed by dissection) from wet-to-mesic stands, including the floodplain of the lower Roanoke River.

FOOD: Larvae are probably stenophagous, feeding on oaks (<i>Quercus</i> spp.). Wagner et al. (2011) state that it is associated with Bear Oak (<i>Q. ilicifolia</i>) in the Northeast, but we have no records from the few Bear Oak sites that occur in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION METHODS: All of our records come from blacklight sampling or from direct observations during the day (e.g., through "tapping"). Like other Underwings, including *C. ilia*, *umbrosa* probably 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: Our records are too sparse to determine its status in North Carolina. More needs to be learned about its host plant and habitat associations in North Carolina before an accurate assessment can be made about its conservation needs. More determinations also need to be made via dissection to clearly eliminate possible confusion with *Catocala ilia*.