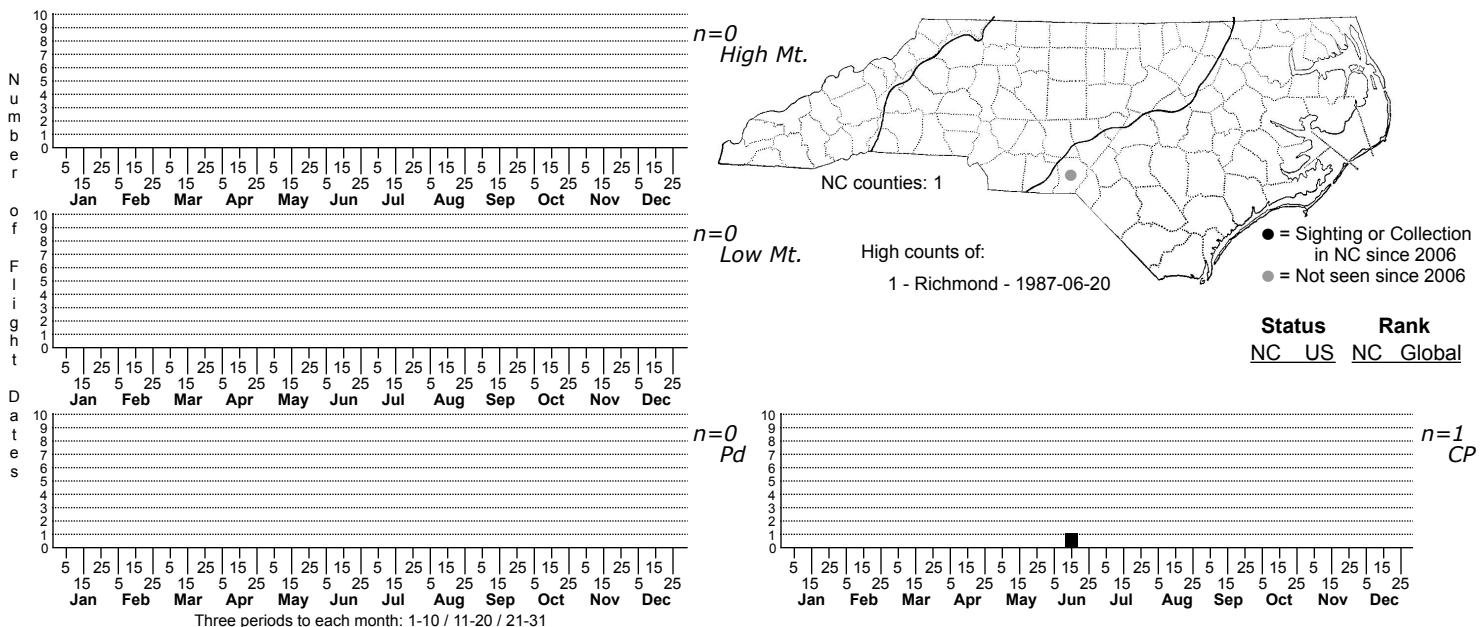


Catocala abbreviatella Abbreviated Underwing



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. Placed in the Legume-feeding Species Group XIII by Forbes (1954), with *C. amestris* and *C. illecta* being the only other members of this group recorded in North Carolina.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

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

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

ID COMMENTS: A medium-large Underwing, with pale gray forewings and yellow-orange and black-banded hindwings. The antemedian is heavy and black, but extends obliquely from the costa only to the fold, then becoming obsolete (Forbes, 1954). The reniform is also marked by a heavy black outline and has a black central lunule. Other markings are faint or obsolete, although the upper portion of the postmedian is often visible as a black line running obliquely from the costa to the cell and the inner boundary of the subreniform is usually visible as a black crescent. The hindwings have heavy black postmedian and marginal bands, the second of which ends abruptly before the inner margin (Sargent, 1976).

DISTRIBUTION: Recorded historically in the Fall-line Sandhills

FLIGHT COMMENT: Univoltine, with our records from June

HABITAT: Our sole record comes from an area of *Amorpha*-containing sandhills habitat.

FOOD: Larvae are stenophagous, feeding on species of *Amorpha* (Forbes, 1954; Sargent, 1976; Wagner, et al., 2011). Leadplant (*Amorpha canescens*) is one of its primary host plants in the prairies of the Midwest, where the main part of the range of this moth is located. However, that particular species of *Amorpha* does not occur in the east, and other species - particularly species associated with sandhills habitats, including, Clusterspike Indigo-bush (*A. herbacea*) - are likely to be used instead.

OBSERVATION METHODS: We do not have enough information to determine how well this species comes to light or bait. Searching for larvae may be the most productive approach to sample for this species.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G3G4 SH

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

COMMENTS: Considered by Sargent (1976) as primarily western and only "sporadic, rare, or accidental" over most of the eastern United States. Our records are from an *Amorpha*-containing habitat, which make it likely that there have been residential colonies here, at least in the past. The current status of this species is unknown, however, and we regard its occurrence as historic. Efforts should be made to search for larvae in *Amorpha* populations, particularly in the Sandhills, in order to confirm its current status.