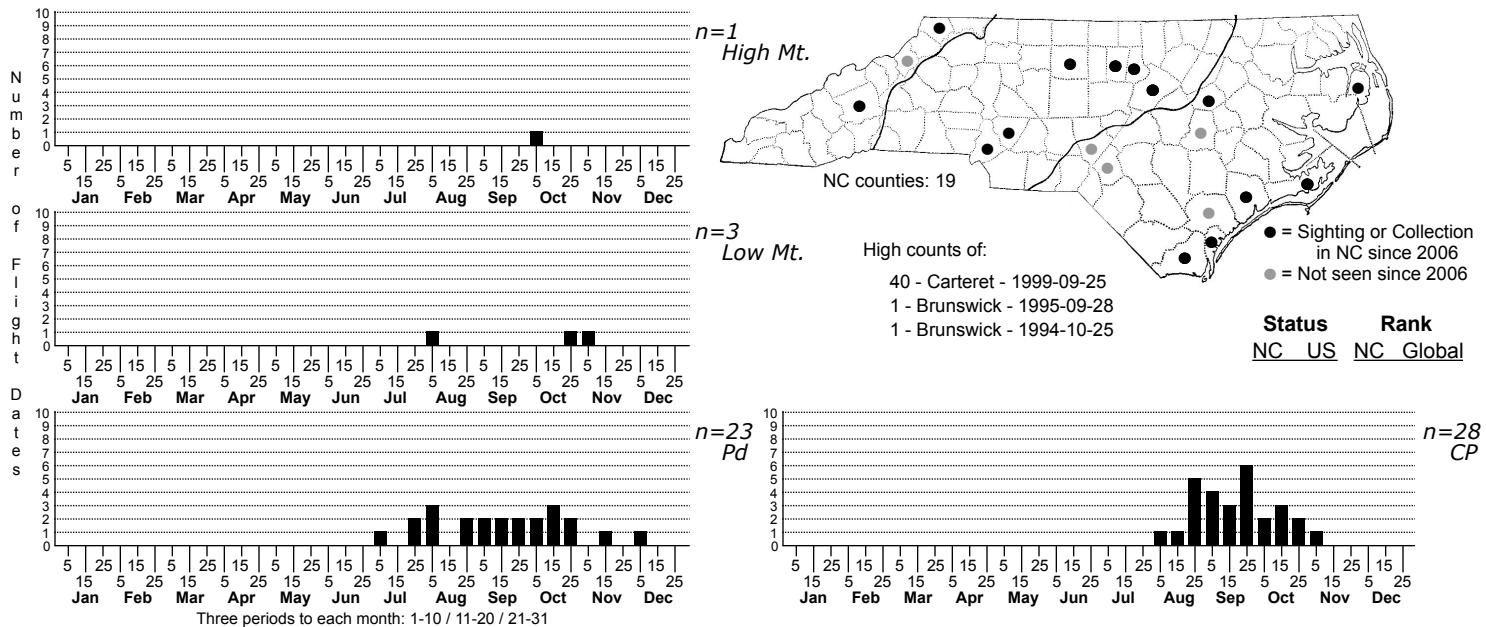


Argyrogramma verruca Golden Looper Moth



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Plusiinae TRIBE: Argyrogrammatini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: The sole member of its genus that occurs in the New World; the two other species are found in the Old World (Lafontaine and Poole, 1991).

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

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

ID COMMENTS: A medium-sized Looper with predominantly metallic copper, gold, or yellowish forewings. The median area below the stigma to the inner margin is usually heavily golden, as is the subterminal area. Other portions of the forewings may be shaded with brown, especially the median area from the costa to the stigma. The stigma is either silver or gold (Forbes, 1954); the basal portion is rounded and the trailing spot is usually small. Two other Loopers, *< i>Chrysodeixis includens* and *< i>Autographa precationis*, also have patches with a bronzy, metallic sheen, but that are more limited in extent and with a darker brown underlying color, particularly in the median area below the stigma. The basal portion of the stigma is more pointed in *< i>precationis* and the posterior spot is usually larger in both of these species than in *verruca*.

DISTRIBUTION: While we have records spanning the state, the species is primarily found in the Coastal Plain and eastern Piedmont.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: Our records come primarily from open habitats, including both natural and disturbed.

FOOD: Larvae feed on many species of herbaceous plants, including arrowhead (*< i>Sagittaria*), dock (*< i>Rumex*), and tobacco (*< i>Nicotiana*) (Wagner et al., 2011). We do not have any feeding records in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION METHODS:

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: