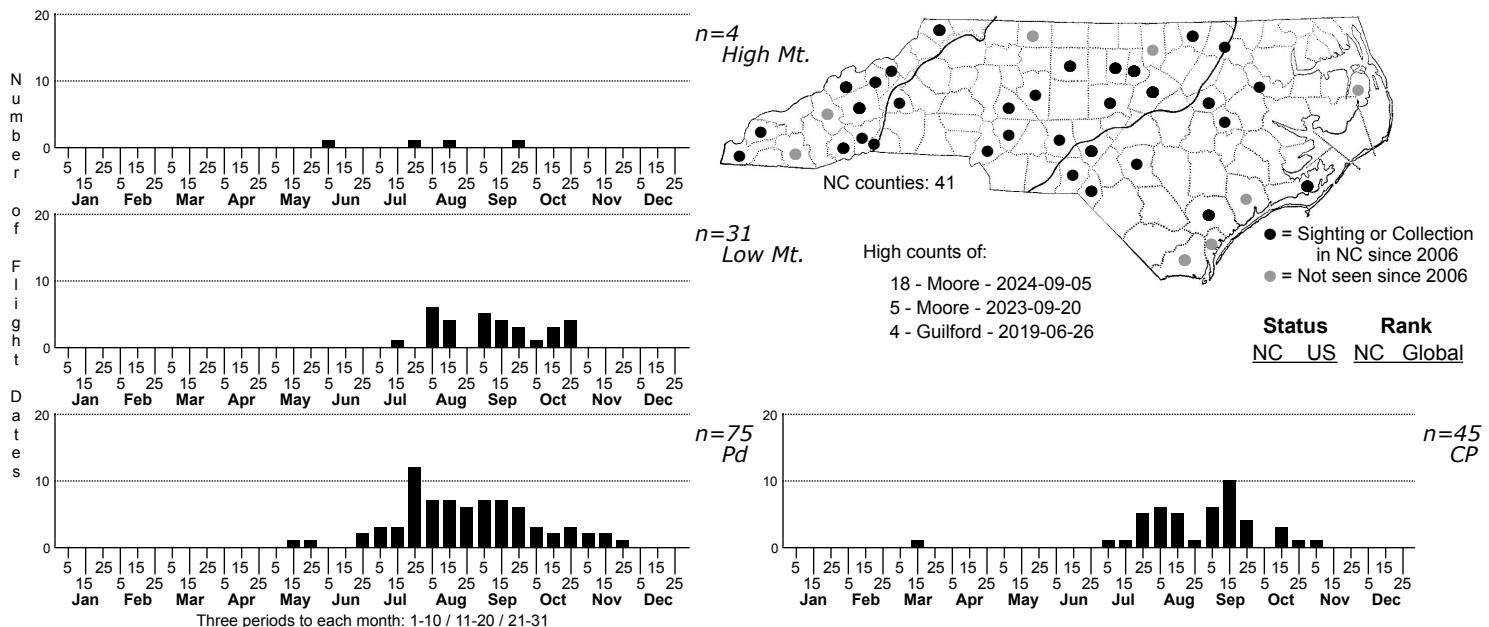


Ctenoplusia oxygramma Sharp-stigma Looper Moth



FAMILY: Noctuidae **SUBFAMILY:** Plusiinae **TRIBE:** Argyrogrammatini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: The only member of its genus found in the New World (Lafontaine and Poole, 1991).

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984; as *Agrapha oxygramma*); Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1954, as *Plusia oxygramma*); Lafontaine and Poole (1991)

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

ID COMMENTS: A medium-sized, dull, dark gray Looper with a contrastingly pale, elongated stigma. Lines and markings are obscure but the long, knife-shaped stigma, joined at the base by the trapezoidal orbicular, is an easy field mark for this species. Hind wings are fuscous.

DISTRIBUTION: Occurs statewide in North Carolina.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: Our records come from a variety of open habitats from across the state, including herbaceous openings in the Mountains to maritime dunes on the barrier islands.

FOOD: Larvae are polyphagous on herbaceous plants. Crumb (1956) lists asters, goldenrod, horseweed, and tobacco (Wagner et al., 2011). In North Carolina, we have reared it from goldenrod and Groundsel-tree (*Baccharis halimifolia*).

OBSERVATION METHODS:

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: