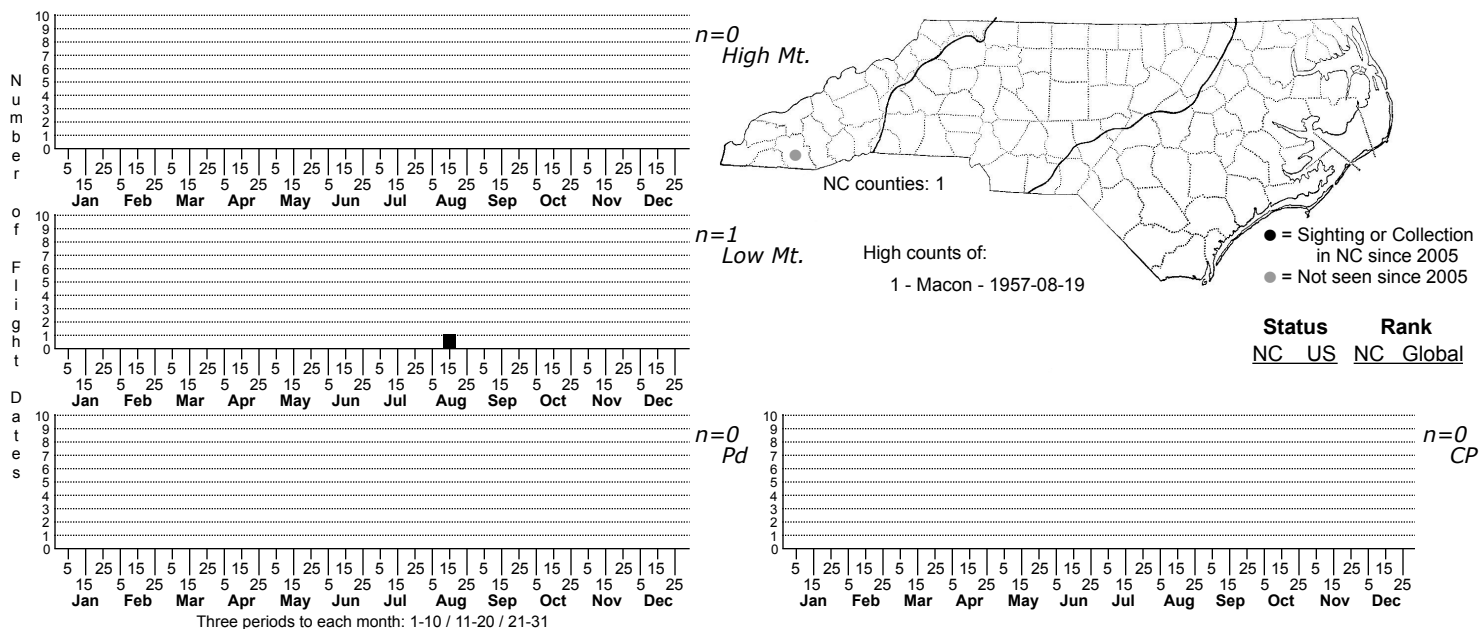


Autoplusia egena Bean-lead Skeletonizer Moth



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Plusiinae TRIBE: Plusiini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of three species in this genus that occurs in North America north of Mexico (Lafontaine and Poole, 1991). Only *Autoplusia egena* has been recorded in North Carolina, but another species, *A. egenoides*, occurs in Florida.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Lafontaine and Poole (1991)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: A medium-sized, rusty-brown looper with long, pointed, semi-falcate wings. The costal and basal portions of the wing are light tan, contrasting with dark brown patches located along the lower part of the median area and in the subterminal area. A crescentic, metallic bronzy patch occurs in the terminal area, following the evenly curved subterminal line to the apex (Lafontaine and Poole, 1991). Forewing spots are inconspicuous and the hind wings are fuscous.

DISTRIBUTION: Probably a rare stray to our area.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT:

FOOD: Larvae are polyphagous on a wide range of herbaceous plants, including numerous crop species. Eichlin (1975) specifically lists celery, soybean, spearmint, hollyhock (*Alcea*), Groundsel-tree (*Baccharis halimifolia*), carrot, larkspur (*Delphinium*), beans (*Phaseolus*), marigold, and vervain (*Verbena*). We do not have any feeding records in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION_METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR SNR [SNA]

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

COMMENTS: We have a single, historic record for this species. It probably occurs here only as a rare migratory species.