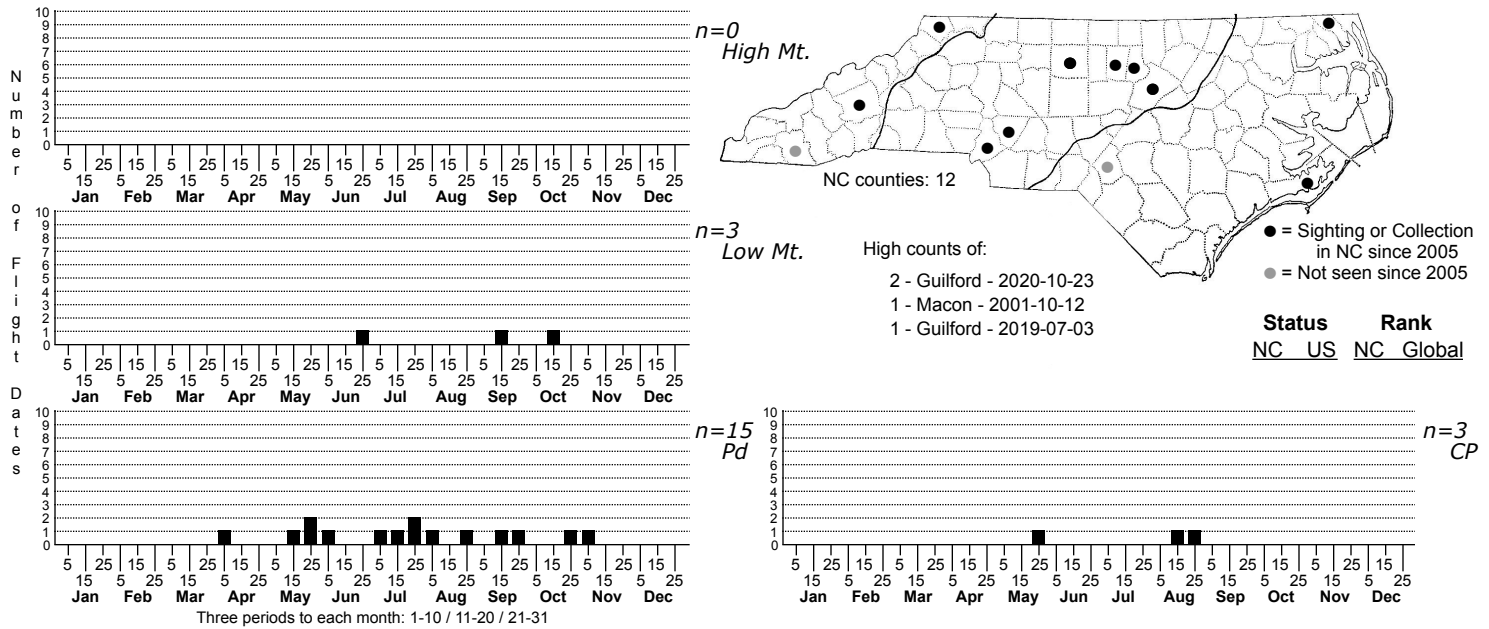


Rachiplusia ou Gray Looper Moth



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Plusiinae TRIBE: Plusiini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: This genus comprises three species, all confined to the New World but with only *R. ou* reaching North America (Lafontaine and Poole, 1991).

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

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

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: A medium-sized, dull, ash-gray Looper. Lines on the forewing are non-contrasting and inconspicuous, but both the antemedian and postmedian are doubled, pale filled, and waved rather than even (Forbes, 1954). The subterminal is somewhat irregular, with a dark shade on the basal side and a pale gray shade beyond it; both the apex and anal angle usually are marked with pale gray. The stigma is a rounded, open u-shape, without a silver filling; a small silver spot, sometimes with a dark center, follows. Hindwings are dull luteous.

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: Wagner et al. (2011) list fields, gardens, croplands, and other early successional habitats.

FOOD: Larvae are polyphagous on herbaceous plants, including many crop species. Wagner et al. (2011) specifically list ragweed (*Ambrosia*), mint (*Mentha*), tobacco (*Nicotiana tabacum*), clover (*Trifolium*), and wheat (*Zea mays*).

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: