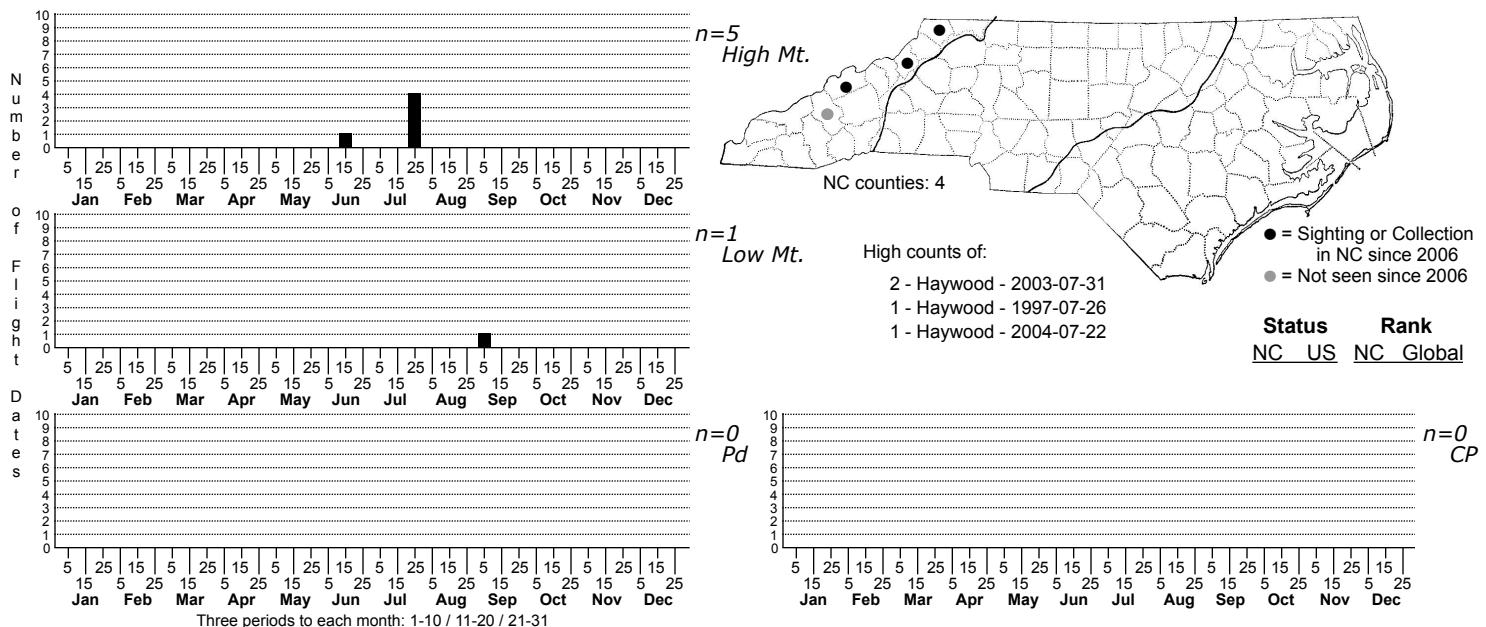


# *Diachrysia balluca* Green-patched Looper Moth



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Plusiinae TRIBE: Plusiini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of two species in this genus that occurs in North America (Lafontaine and Poole, 1991), both of which are found in North Carolina. Lafontaine and Poole note that this genus appears to be quite heterogeneous and that our two species may eventually be placed in separate genera.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1954); Lafontaine and Poole (1991)

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

ID COMMENTS: Medium-sized but our largest Looper. The forewings are distinctive in possessing shimmering, metallic green shades in the lower median, subterminal, and upper terminal areas. The remaining areas of the forewing are light brownish gray but may also be somewhat shaded with green or otherwise shiny. No stigma is present.

DISTRIBUTION: Restricted to higher elevations in the Mountains in North Carolina.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: Our records all come from high elevation sites but details are missing regarding the exact habitats used.

FOOD: Larvae have been recorded on hops (<i>Humulus</i>), Giant Hyssop (<i>Agastache urticifolia</i>), raspberry (<i>Rubus</i>), wood-nettle (<i>Laportea</i>), and aspen (<i>Populus</i>) (Lafontaine and Poole, 1991; Wagner et al., 2011). Lafontaine and Poole noted that most records come from woody species. Wagner et al. speculated that this species could have a preference for Urticales. We do not have any feeding records in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S1S3]

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

COMMENTS: