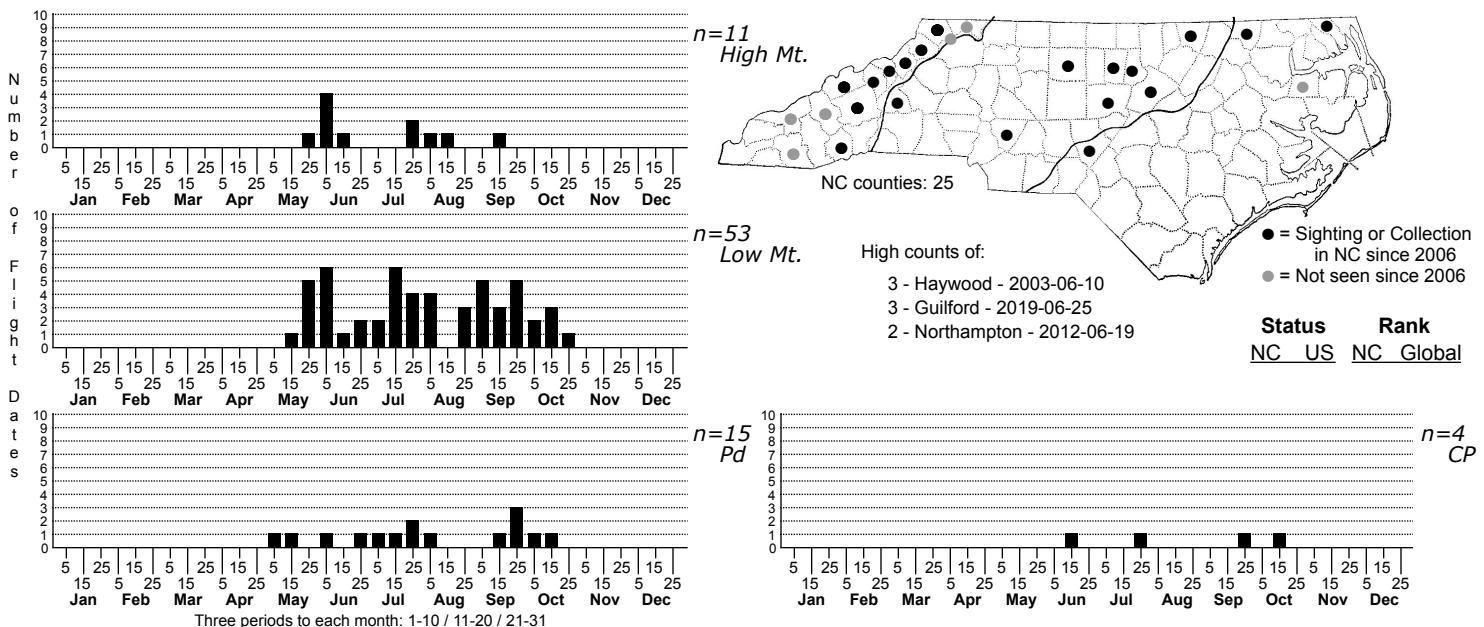


Allagrapha aerea Unspotted Looper Moth



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Plusiinae TRIBE: Plusiini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: The sole member of its genus and occurring widely across eastern North America (Lafontaine and Poole, 1991)

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

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

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

ID COMMENTS: A medium-sized Looper, with dark, umber or reddish-brown, apically-pointed forewings and light brown hindwings. No stigma is present. The head and thorax are usually orange and contrasting with the wings. Similar in size and wing shape to *Diachrysia aerooides*, but is usually darker and with more diffuse markings. Where visible, the postmedian is waved in *Allagrapha aerea* but straight in *D. aerooides*.

DISTRIBUTION: Found primarily in the Mountains in North Carolina, though we have records extending all the way to the outer Coastal Plain.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: Our records come from cove forests in the mountains to open, shoreline habitats in the Piedmont and Coastal Plain.

FOOD: Larvae are polyphagous on herbaceous plants, including aster, nettle (*Urtica*), goldenrod (*Solidago*), and Soybean (*Glycine max*) (Lafontaine & Poole, 1991; Wagner et al., 2011). In North Carolina, we have a rearing record from Brazilian Vervain (*Verbena brasiliensis*).

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: