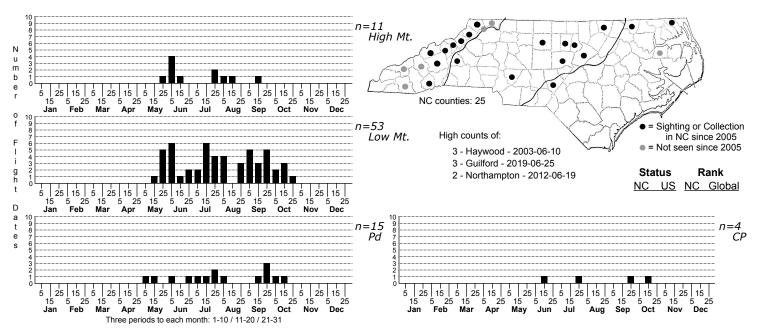
## Allagrapha aerea Unspotted Looper Moth



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 <i>Plusia aerea</i>); Lafontane 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 <i>Diachrysia aeroides</i>, but is usually darker and with more diffuse markings. Where visible, the postmedian is waved in <i>Allagrapha aerea</i> but straight in <i>D. aeroides</i>.

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 (<i>Urtica</i>), goldenrod (<i>Solidago</i>), and Soybean (<i>Glycine max</i>) (Lafontaine & Poole, 1991; Wagner et al., 2011). In North Carolina, we have a rearing record from Brazilian Vervain (<i>Verbena brasiliensis</i>).

**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: