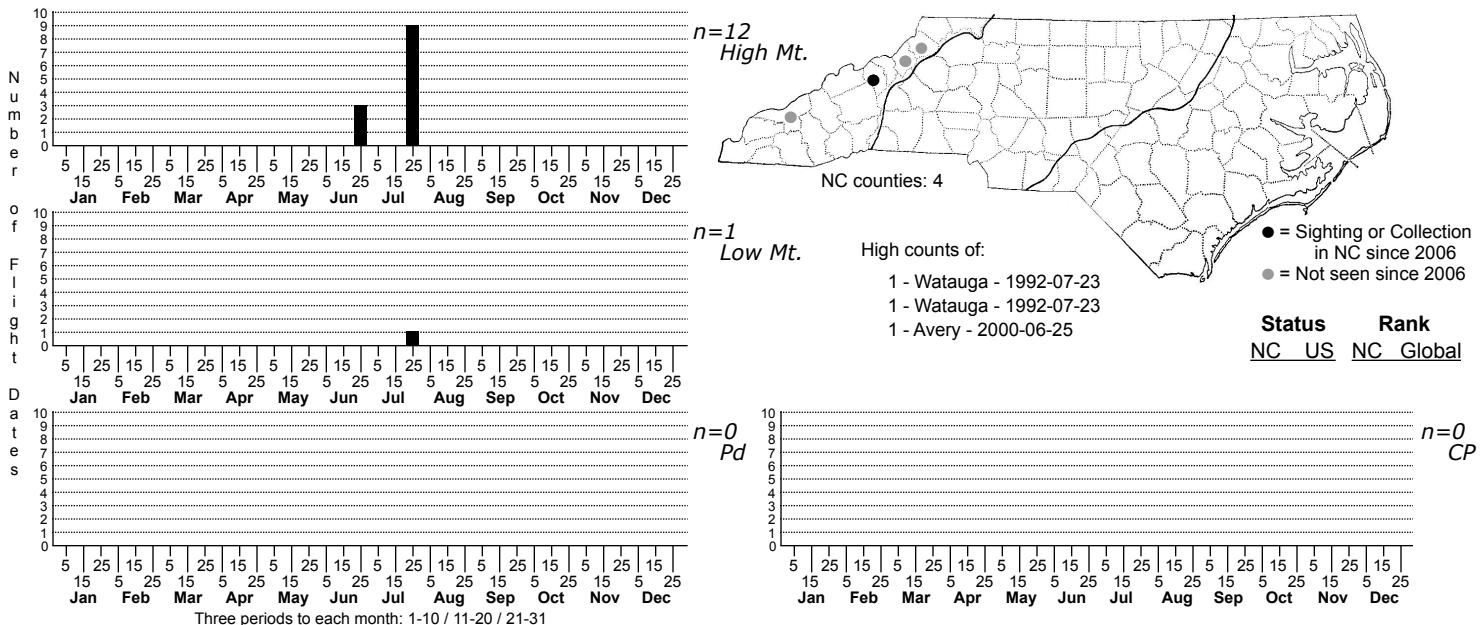


Syngrapha alias Hooked Silver Y Moth



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Plusiinae TRIBE: Plusiini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of 24 species in this genus that occur in North America (Lafontaine and Poole, 1991; Lafontaine and Schmidt, 2010). Most are northern and only two species have been recorded in North Carolina, both as disjuncts from their primary range in the North.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

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

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Forbes (1954); Lafontaine and Poole (1991); Maeier et al. (2011); and Wagner et al. (2011)

ID COMMENTS: A medium-sized Looper with a dark gray ground color mottled with white. The lines are irregular and marked with silvery to yellowish-white. The orbicular and reniform are usually obscure but may be narrowly outlined by silver. The most prominent and distinctive mark is a large silver stigma, consisting of two spots that are usually joined by a silver line. The hindwings are fuscous and usually darker towards the margin. Most other Loopers that occur in our area do not have the blackish ground color of *S. alias*. *Syngrapha rectangula* is the most similar in both ground color and general markings, but is much strongly mottled with black and white patches and has spots and lines that are more heavily marked with silver (Forbes, 1954).

DISTRIBUTION: Confined to the High Mountains in North Carolina.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Probably univoltine, with all of our records coming from June and July

HABITAT: All of our records come from Spruce-Fir Forests on the tops of some of our highest mountains.

FOOD: Larvae are oligophagous, feeding primarily on spruce (*Picea* spp.) and fir (*Abies* spp.) but possibly also on other conifers (Forbes, 1954; Lafontaine & Poole, 1991; Maier et al., 2011; and Wagner et al., 2011).

OBSERVATION METHODS: While this species comes to blacklights, all of our records are for single specimens from any one sample. We do not have any records from bait.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 S2?

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

COMMENTS: This species appears to be one of the species most closely associated with Spruce-Fir Forests in North Carolina, a highly restricted and increasingly threatened ecosystem; currently, populations are known from only three sites. Although this species appears to be secure globally, being common in boreal forests in the North, its disjunct and probably relict populations in North Carolina appear to be at great risk of extirpation, an event they are unlikely to ever recover from.