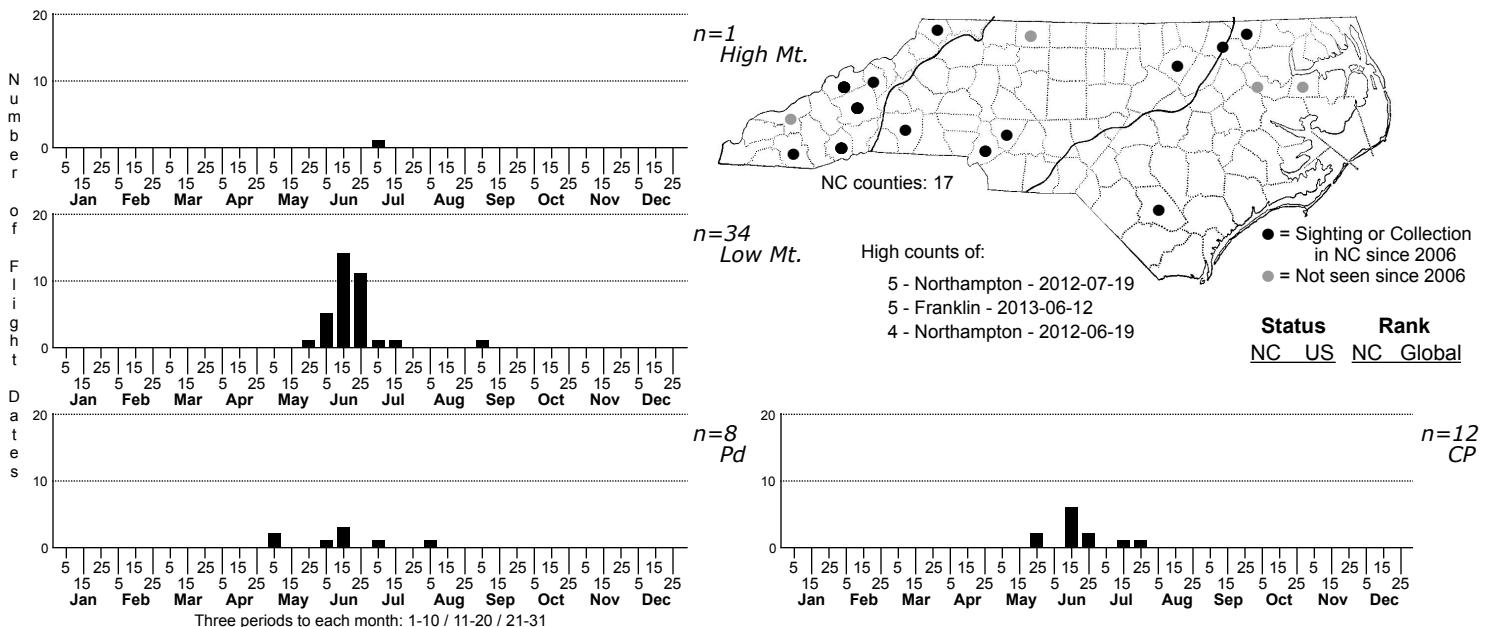


Argillophora furcilla Silver Fork Cane Moth



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Eustotiinae TRIBE:

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: The only member of its genus occurring in North America (Lafontaine and Schmidt, 2010)

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Grote (1873); Forbes, (1954)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: A medium-small Noctuid. The ground color is clay to buff, with a prominent streak of silver running from the base of the forewing to about a third of the way along the inner margin and from there outward to the cell, where it merges with a small spot with two small points (i.e., the fork). The outward side of the silver streak is shaded with blackish and a similar dark streak runs from the base of the wing to the silver streak near where it ends at the cell. The normal transverse lines are not evident and the orbicular is represented by a small black spot. The hindwings are pale, usually edged with yellow (Grote, 1873; Forbes, 1954). *< i>Franclemontia interrogans< /i>* is another yellowish-brown cane-feeding Noctuid, but is larger than *< i>Argillophora< /i>* and has a hockey-stick shaped white mark in the middle of the wing rather than the long, bent silver streak characteristic of *< i>Argillophora< /i>*.

DISTRIBUTION: Possibly occurs statewide with the exception of the High Mountains.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Probably univoltine, flying only from May to July.

HABITAT: All of our records come from cane-containing habitats, including peatlands and river floodplains in the Piedmont and Coastal Plain, and dry slopes in the mountains where Hill Cane occurs. No records come from cane growing in savannas and flatwoods that are maintained by frequent fire.

FOOD: Believed to be stenophagous on cane (*< i>Arundinaria< /i>* spp.) (Quinter), with records coming from both Giant Cane (*< i>Arundinaria gigantea< /i>*) and Hill Cane (*< i>Arundinaria appalachiana< /i>*), but possibly not from Switch Cane (*< i>Arundinaria tecta< /i>*), at least where it is associated with fire-maintained habitats. We do not have any feeding records in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION METHODS: All of our records come from 15 watt UV light traps

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G3G4 S2S3 [S3S4]

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

COMMENTS: Once considered very rare and local (e.g., Forbes, 1954), but now found fairly routinely when cane-containing habitats are sampled during the summer. Even in areas with large amounts of cane, however, only a few individuals have ever been collected in a single trap sample.