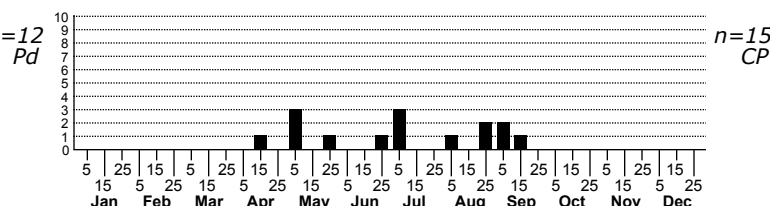
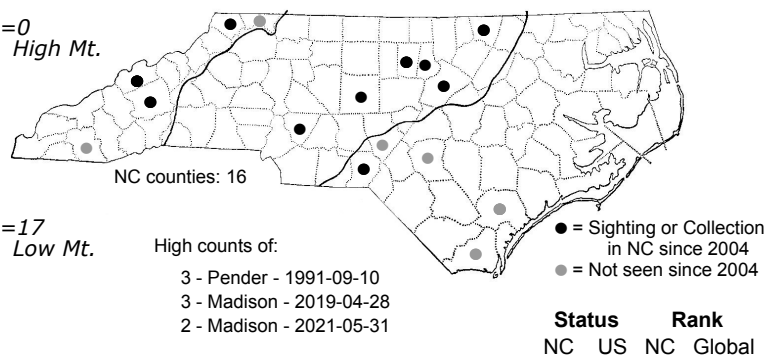
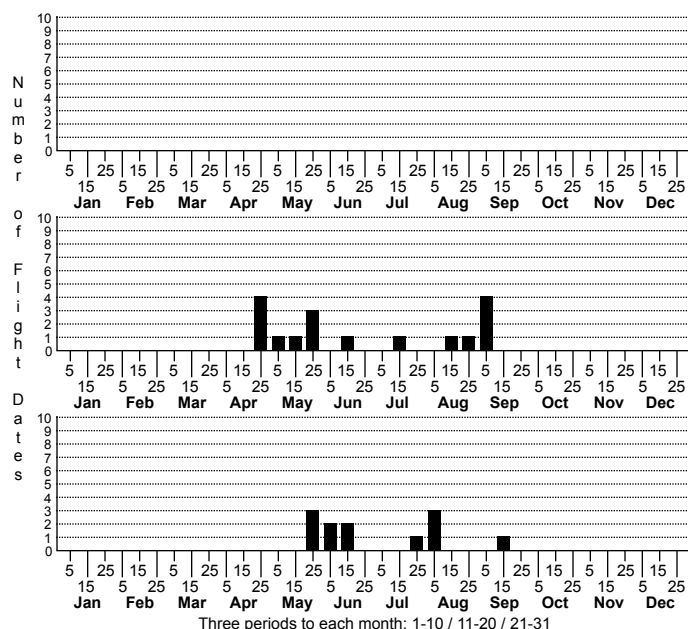


# *Acronicta fallax* Green Marvel Moth



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Acronictinae TRIBE:

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of 74 species in this genus found in North America north of Mexico (Schmidt and Anweiler, 2020), 42 of which have been recorded in North Carolina.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984; as *Agriopodes fallax*); Beadle and Leckie (2012; as *Agriopodes fallax*)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1954)

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

ID COMMENTS: This species, which looks as though it belongs on a patch of lichens, is unmistakable in its pattern. While there are other species similar to it, and one placed with it in the genus *Agriopodes*, some have been moved elsewhere as well.

DISTRIBUTION: Probably occurs across the entire state except for the Barrier Islands and High Mountains.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The species appears to be triple brooded in the Coastal Plain with probably two broods in the mountains.

HABITAT: In the Coastal Plain, most of our records come from peatland habitats, where *Viburnum nudum* is a common species. In the Piedmont, the majority of records come from lakeshore habitats, probably in association with *V. dentatum*, but we have at least one record from a dry, mafic ridge, where *V. rafinesquianum* or some other species of upland *Viburnum* seems likely to be the host. In the Mountains, habitats include both riparian and mesic forests, where several species of *Viburnum* could be used. It has not, however, been taken above 4000', so may not feed on the high elevation species of *Viburnum*.

FOOD: Larvae have been found on Possumhaw Viburnum (*Viburnum nudum*) and Southern Arrowwood (*V. dentatum*) and are suspected to occur on other species.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: Adults come to light but we could not find records of them attracted to bait or flowers.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: [G5 S4]

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

COMMENTS: We have relatively few records for this species but it occurs widely across the state and occupies a fairly wide range of wet to mesic habitats. It thus appears to be relatively secure within the state.