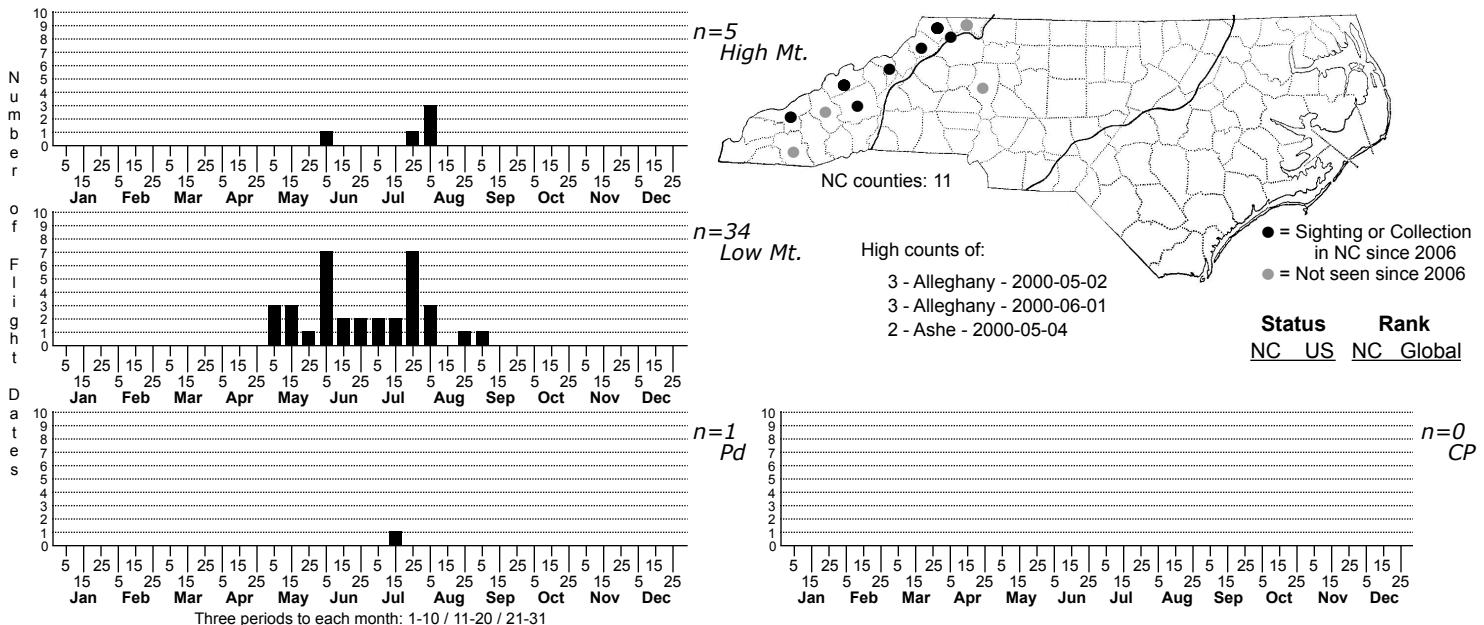


# *Anterastria teratophora* Gray Marvel Moth



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Noctuinae TRIBE: Pseudeustrotiini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: The genus *Anterastria* contains two species and one of them occurs in North Carolina. The other is confined to eastern Asia.

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1954)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Forbes (1954); Crumb (1955); Wagner et al. (2011)

ID COMMENTS: Our species is easily identified by its maculation, a blackish moth with a single large white reniform patch on each forewing. It most closely resembles some of the smaller species of *Acronicta* but none of them have the distinct white reniform patch. Sexes are similar.

DISTRIBUTION: While the species is known from much of North America, in North Carolina it seems to be found primarily in the Mountains, with one record from the western Piedmont

FLIGHT COMMENT: The species is on the wing throughout the mid-summer period and probably has two broods

HABITAT: The majority of our records come from wet to mesic habitats, including riparian and other wet meadows, as well mesic slopes and cove forests.

FOOD: Both Forbes (1954) and Crumb (1955) list *Monarda* and *Mentha* as host plants, with Crumb and Wagner et al. (2011) specifically mentioning Scarlet Beebalm (*Monarda didyma*). Spotted Beebalm (*Monarda punctata*) is also listed by Wagner et al. In North Carolina, *Mentha* spp. are quite rare and beebealm fits well with most of the habitats where we have observed this species. Its presence in the Piedmont suggests that it also uses Spotted Beebalm or other species of *Monarda*.

OBSERVATION METHODS: Adults readily come to light but have not been seen at bait.

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: While apparently uncommon, this species is relatively widespread in the Mountains, where it occupies relatively common types of habitats. More needs to be learned about the host plants used in North Carolina, as well as its distribution in the Piedmont.