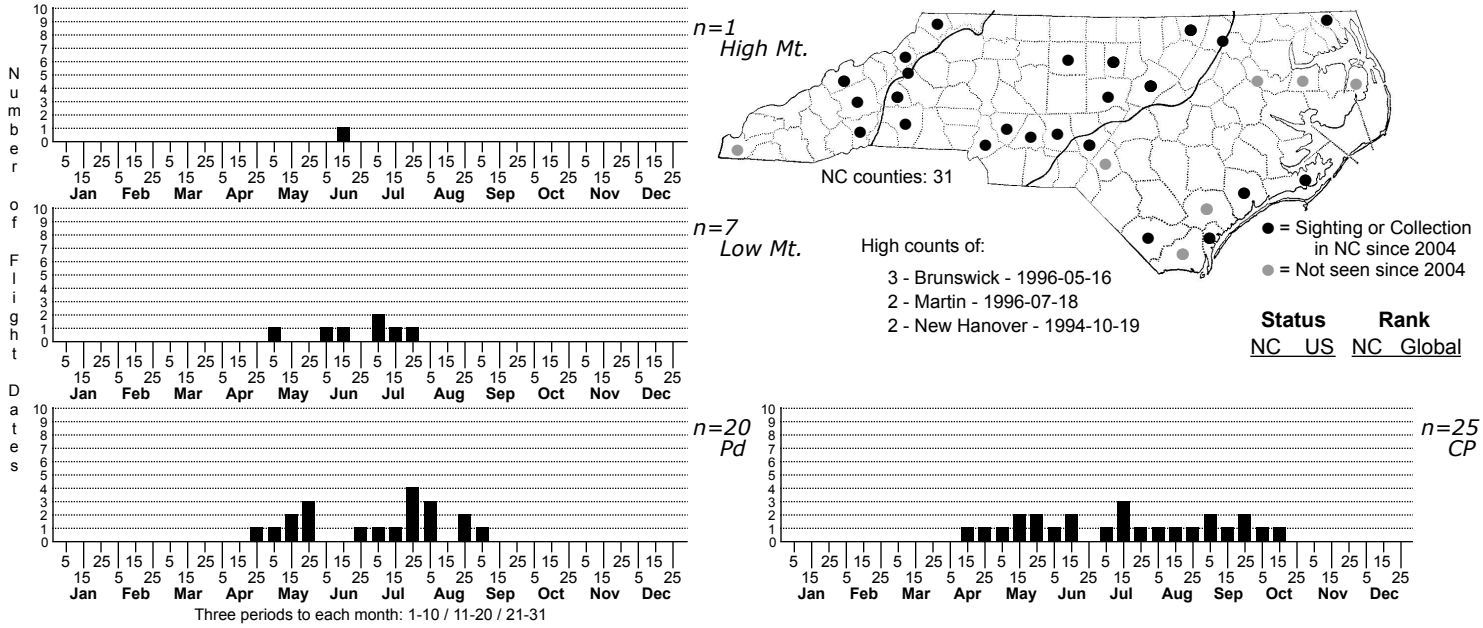
Harrisimemna trisignata Harris's Three-spot Moth



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Acronictinae TRIBE:
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: A genus of two species, one from Japan and one from North America, largely the eastern part but that distribution tails toward Alaska and may trace the origin of our species. Currently it is a member of the Acronictinae but has been placed elsewhere in its history.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984); Beadle and Leckie (2012)
ONLINE PHOTOS: MPG, BugGuide, BAMONA, BOLD
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1954)
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Forbes (1954); Wagner et al. (2011)

ID COMMENTS: The unique pattern with circular brown spots near the wing apices will easily identify this species. Sexes are similar.

DISTRIBUTION: Distributed across the state

FLIGHT COMMENT: It appears to have one brood in the Mountains, two in the Piedmont, and perhaps three in the Coastal Plain.

HABITAT: Almost all of our records come from wet or mesic forests. These include both riverine and non-riverine swamp forests, pond-pine woodlands and other peatlands, bottomland hardwoods, mesic ravines, and river and lake shorelines

FOOD: Polyphagous, reported from a very wide variety of woody plants but particularly Ilex (hollies).

OBSERVATION_METHODS: Adults come to light, but the scarcity of records despite its wide range of habitats could indicate that it comes only poorly. They are not known to respond 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: More needs to be learned about the host plants and habitats preferred by this species, but it is widely distributed across the state and seems to occupy a wide range of habitats. Consequently, it appears to be secure within the state.