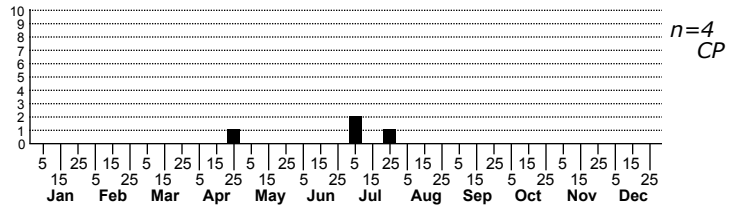
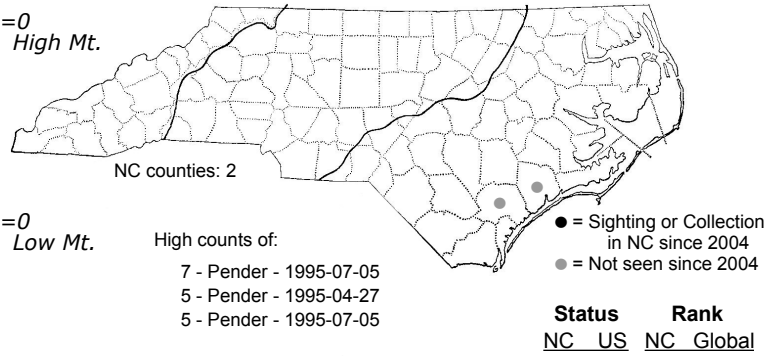
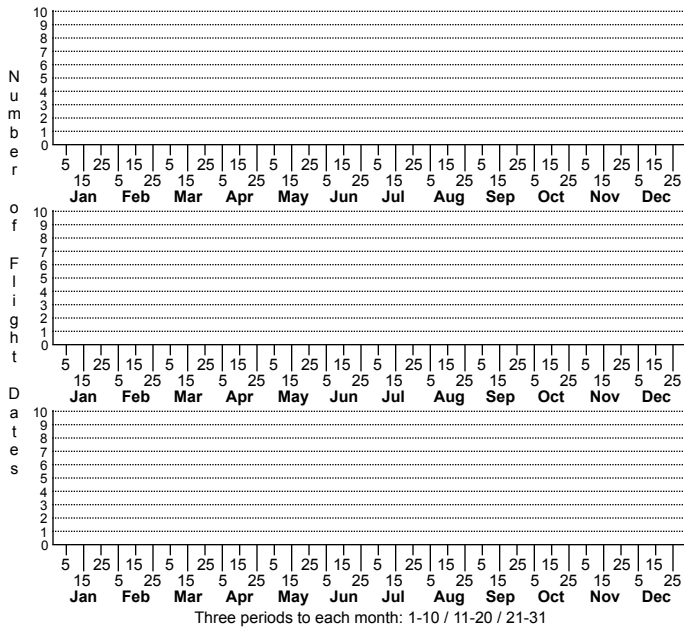


Elaphria cyanympha No common name



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Noctuinae TRIBE: Elaphriini

TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: One of fifteen species in this genus that occur in North America (Lafontaine and Schmidt, 2010), of which ten have been recorded in North Carolina. Originally placed by Ferguson (1988) in the genus *Cryphia* but provisionally moved to *Elaphria* by Lafontaine and Schmidt (2010). Information based primarily on molecular data and/or genitalia indicate that the genus that this species currently is assigned to is misapplied, but the correct genus to which it should be assigned has not been determined by experts. The genus name is sometimes placed in quotation marks (*"Elaphria"*; *cyanympha*) to indicate the misapplied name.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Ferguson (1988)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: A small lichen-mimic Noctuid with greenish-white or light blue-green forewings. The basal, antemedian, and postmedian lines are all black and partly edged with white and there is a prominent black rectangle projecting from the antemedian to the end of the cell. Black lines are also present on the head and collar and there is a variable black shading in the terminal area and fringe. Hindwings are brownish-gray (Ferguson, 1988). *Emarginea percara* is similar but is larger, has a black basal dash, and has a more extensive dark u-shaped filling in the median area.

DISTRIBUTION: Appears to be restricted to the southern half of the Outer Coastal Plain

FLIGHT COMMENT: Possibly bivoltine, with records in the early spring as well as late summer

HABITAT: Our records come from dry hardwood and sandhill habitats, including highly xeric sand barrens. This is consistent with Kons and Borth's (2008) identification of this species as dependent on Xeric Oak-Pine Habitats in Florida.

FOOD: Unknown, but Ferguson (1988) speculated they might feed on lichens, based on records for the closely related Puerto Rican species, *Elaphria jucundella*. Ferguson mentioned tree lichens in the genus *Usnea* as particular possibilities. Given the apparent association with xeric sandhills, lichens in the genus *Cladonia* -- often abundant in those habitats -- also seem possible.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: Appears to come well to blacklights, with multiple individuals being caught at most of the sites where the species has been found

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G4 SH

STATE PROTECTION: Listed as Significantly Rare by the Natural Heritage Program. That designation does not confer any legal protection, however, although permits are required to collect it on state parks and other public lands.

COMMENTS: Despite the extensive moth surveys that have been conducted in sandhills habitats in the Coastal Plain, we have very few records for this generally poorly known species. It does not appear to be difficult to capture, however, suggesting that it is truly localized in its distribution and has specialized habitat needs. More information is needed about its larval hosts, however, which should help to more accurately determine its conservation needs.