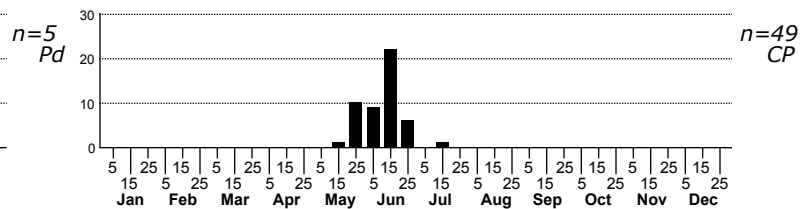
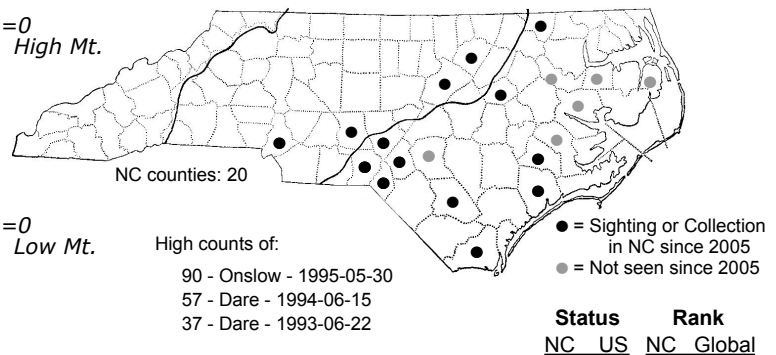
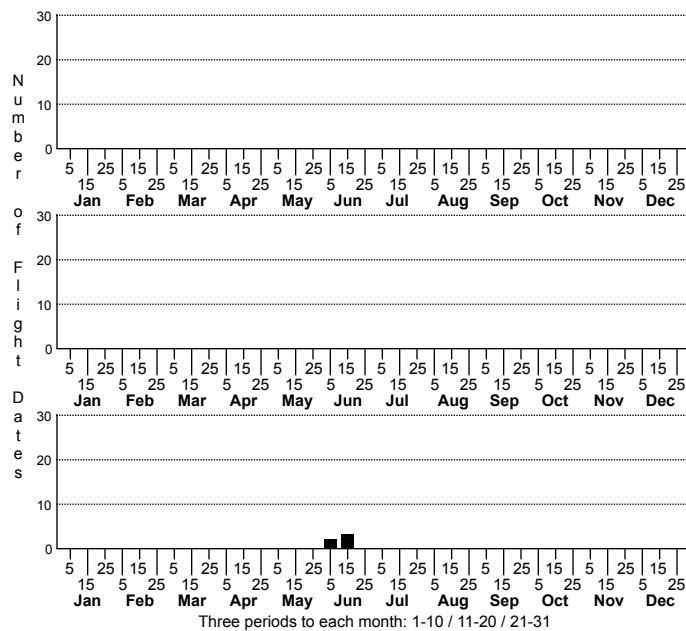


## *Acrapex relict* Relict Cane Moth



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Noctuinae TRIBE: Apameini

TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS: As currently recognized, The genus *Acrapex* contains 82 species mostly from Africa but also Asia and Australia, as well as our single representative. Bar coding of a few has been done and indicates that the genus is polyphyletic (i.e. contains members of multiple genera) and that our species is clearly not related to most of them. Our species does, however, show an affinity to one species from Kenya. 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 ("*Acrapex*" *relict*) to indicate the misapplied name.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Ferguson (1991)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: A small, light brown Noctuid, with narrow, somewhat pointed wings, but with rounded apices. The body and ground color of the forewings is light tan -- "dead-grass colored" (Ferguson, 1991) -- with scattered specks of dark brown representing the transverse lines. A distinctive pale vertical line is located in the cell, bisecting a horizontal dark dash of variable length. Hindwings are gray-brown. Sexes are similar.

DISTRIBUTION: Most of our records come from the Coastal Plain but it also extends into the Piedmont along large rivers with extensive bottomlands. It has not yet been recorded in the Mountains, however, where another moth fauna associated with Cane exists

FLIGHT COMMENT: Adults appear to be univoltine, flying primarily in June throughout its range, with just a few having been recorded in May or July.

HABITAT: All of our records come either directly from canebrakes or from habitats where cane is expected to occur. These include Maritime Swamp Forests on the Outer Banks; Pond Pine Woodlands, Non-riverine Swamp Forests, and Longleaf Pine savannas and flatwoods in the Outer Coastal Plain; Sandhill Streamhead Swamps in the Fall-line Sandhills; and bottomland hardwoods in the Piedmont.

FOOD: Ferguson (1991) speculated that *A. relict* feeds on some species of marsh grass. Eric Quinter discovered that, in fact, it is highly associated with cane (*Arundinaria* spp.).

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: Appears to come very well to blacklights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G4 S3 [S3S4]

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

COMMENTS: Ferguson (1991) knew of records only from three sites along the Atlantic Coast, from South Carolina north to the Great Dismal Swamp in Virginia and considered it to be rare and local. However, we have since found it in almost all cane-supporting habitats that we have sampled during its June flight period. While it is definitely a habitat specialist, its habitats currently are still fairly widespread and common. Consequently, we no longer consider it to be a potential species of significant conservation concern in North Carolina.