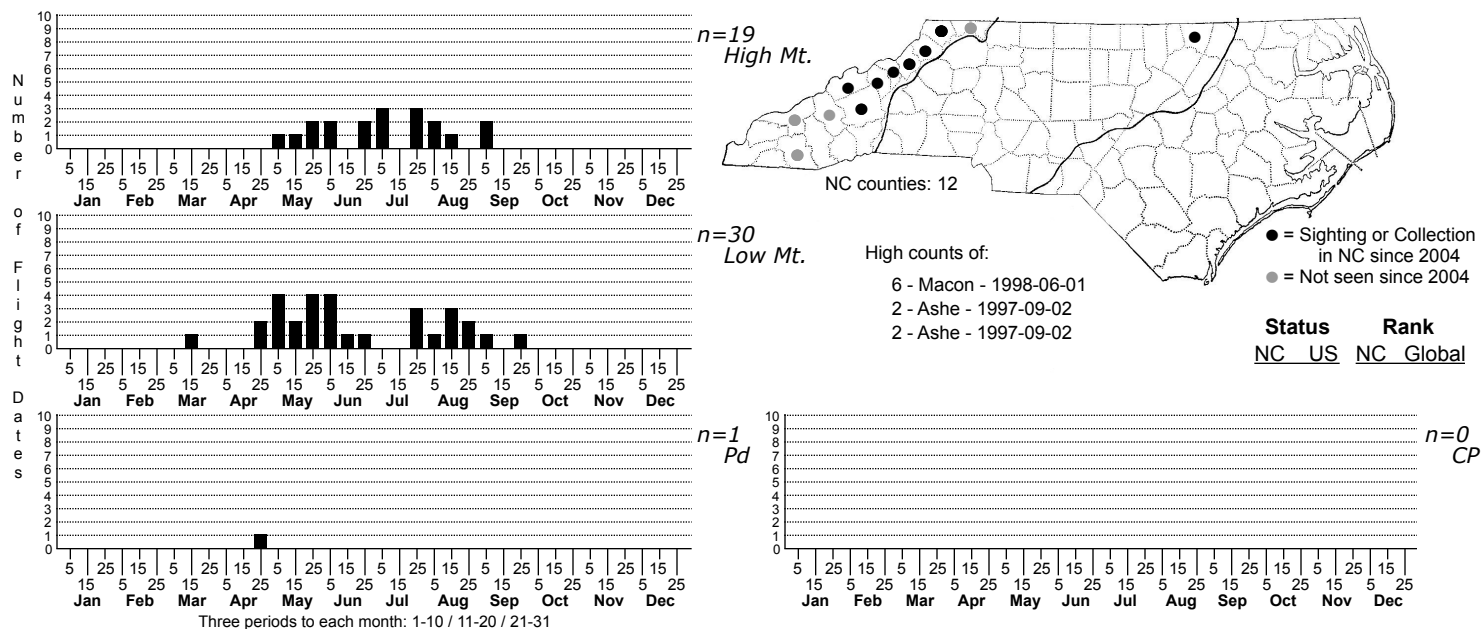


Hyppa xylinoides Common Hyppa Moth



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Noctuinae TRIBE: Xylenini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: Currently the genus contains 6 species (Troubridge and Lafontaine, 2004). The type is Eurasian but the remaining species are from North America, two of which occur in North Carolina. The pattern of maculation is strongly conserved.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984); Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1954)

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

ID COMMENTS: The genus is fairly easy to recognize from the wing pattern, but distinguishing the two species can be difficult. The brownish suffusion in *H. contrasta* and its overall darker appearance should separate it from *H. xylinoides*, which is more uniform and streaked. Note that the orbicular and reniforms spots often touch in *H. contrasta* but are usually well separated in *H. xylinoides*. Both are collected together but *H. contrasta* is usually larger. The sexes are similar in both species.

DISTRIBUTION: Most records are from the Mountains but a specimen has been taken in the northeastern part of the Piedmont, indicating that it could be found much more widely across at least the western two-thirds of the state.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Appears to have two broods in North Carolina.

HABITAT: Our records come primarily from wet to mesic habitats, including riparian forests, cove forests, and northern hardwoods. The one Piedmont record comes from a residential neighborhood located along the shoreline of a reservoir.

FOOD: Wagner et al (2011) state that *Hyppa* caterpillars feed on a wide variety of forbs and low woody plants but they were unable to rear any caterpillars to adults and thus the food preferences and larval color pattern of the two species are inseparable at present.

OBSERVATION METHODS: Adults readily come to lights but information on their response to bait and flowers is lacking. Caterpillars should be sought at night.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: [G5 SU]

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

COMMENTS: Formerly believed to be associated with montane forests but has now been discovered in the eastern Piedmont. More needs to be learned about its presence and habitat associations outside of the Mountains before its conservation status can be determined.