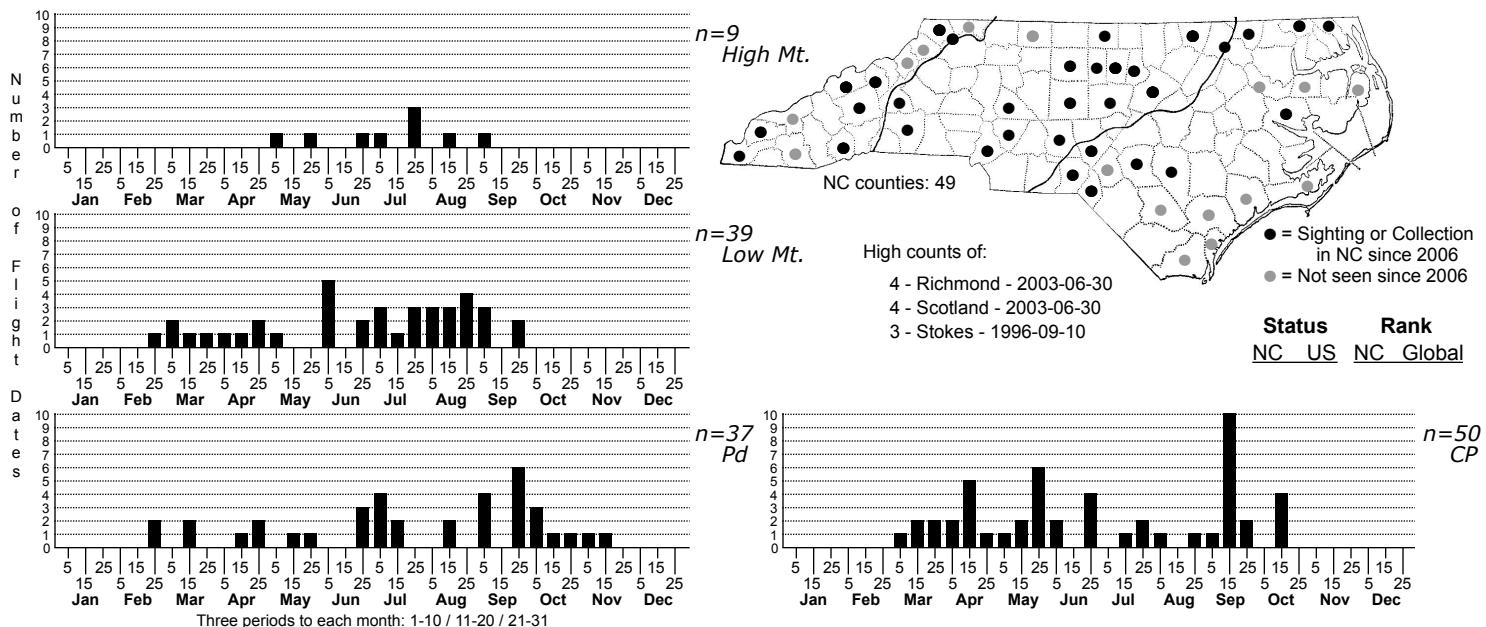


## Nedra ramosula Gray Half-spot Moth



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Noctuinae TRIBE: Actinotiini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: A New World genus of some 8 species, of which 4 occur in the United States and 1 in North Carolina. Related to Alastria and Iodopepla but otherwise isolated.

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1954)

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

ID COMMENTS: This gray Noctuid with heavy longitudinal streaking and a large yellowish-tan reniform spot is unlike anything else in our fauna. The ground color is light blue-gray with a long black basal dash and a shorter sub-basal dash. A blackish wedge partially enclosing the reniform, and a series of black terminal wedges extend in from the outer margin interposed between a matching series of pale wedges bordering the veins (see Forbes, 1954 for details).

DISTRIBUTION: This species is likely to be found almost anywhere in the state.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Adult captures indicate that there are probably three broods in the Coastal Plain.

HABITAT: Our records for this species come from nearly every habitat type in the state, ranging from open dunes on the Barrier Islands to Northern Hardwoods/Spruce Fir Forests at the summit of Grandfather Mountain. In between, they come from Peatlands, Longleaf Pine Savannas and Sandhills, river and stream floodplain forests, lakeshores, glades, and dry ridges.

FOOD: Larvae are stenophagous, feeding on species of St. John's-wort (<i>Hypericum</i>). Wagner et al (2011) found larvae on Bushy St. John's-wort (<i>H. densiflorum</i>) in the Appalachian foothills but with some 30 species of this foodplant genus in North Carolina, <i>Nedra</i> likely feeds on others as well. Given that the species is seldom common, it is possible that they feed on just a subset of <i>Hypericum</i> species. In North Carolina, our only confirmed host is Bushy St. John's-wort.

OBSERVATION METHODS: Adults come to light and bait but have not been recorded at flowers. Larvae seem to remain on the plant (unlike many noctuid larvae which hide in the leaf litter during the day), so beating should be productive and informative.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S4S5]

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

COMMENTS: This species appears to be uncommon throughout the state despite the fact that <i>Hypericum</i> species are found almost everywhere. This may indicate that adults are not strongly attracted to light. Systematic searches for larvae need to be done in order to determine if they have preferences for particular species of <i>Hypericum</i>.