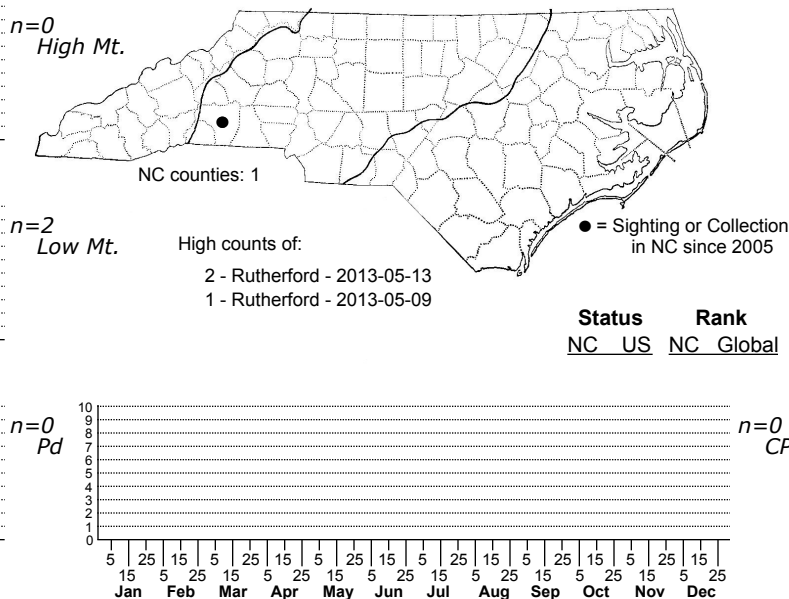
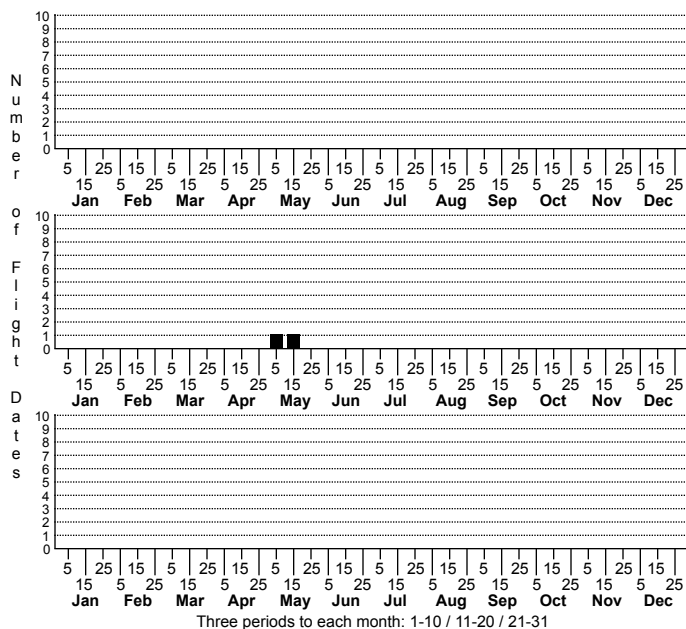


## *Properigea costa complex* Barrens Moth



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Noctuinae TRIBE: Xylenini

TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS: This North American genus contains some 10 described species, 2 of which reach North Carolina.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Barnes and Benjamin (1923; description of *Properigea* (=Namangana) *costa* based on Arizona specimens)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The species looks like a small *Sideridis* species, the forewing is very dark with a broad, white anal streak. Nothing else in our fauna looks like this.

DISTRIBUTION: Our sole record comes from the Blue Ridge escarpment.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Appear to have two broods, late April-May and then again in August.

HABITAT: Our one record for this species was taken from on top of a rocky outcrop, which is consistent with the barrens habitat reported for this species complex. If, however, it feeds on *Polypodium virginianum*, then it may actually prefer moister rock outcrops located in less-well insulated sites.

FOOD: Larval hosts are unrecorded but western species in this genus feed on ferns (Lafontaine, pers. comm. to JBS, based on information from T. McCabe). Lafontaine also suspects that Common Polypody (*Polypodium vulgare*) may be used in Canada. Although we do not have that species in North Carolina, Sullivan noted the presence of Common Rockcap Fern (*Polypodium virginianum*) growing on rocks near where his specimens were collected.

OBSERVATION METHODS: Known only from light trap studies. Response to bait (possible) and flowers (unlikely) unknown. A search for caterpillars at other times of the growing season should be productive.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G4 SU [S1S3]

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

COMMENTS: We currently have only one record for this species, which appears to be a fairly uncommon to rare habitat specialist over most of its range. More surveys are needed to determine its distribution, abundance, host plants, and habitat associations in North Carolina.