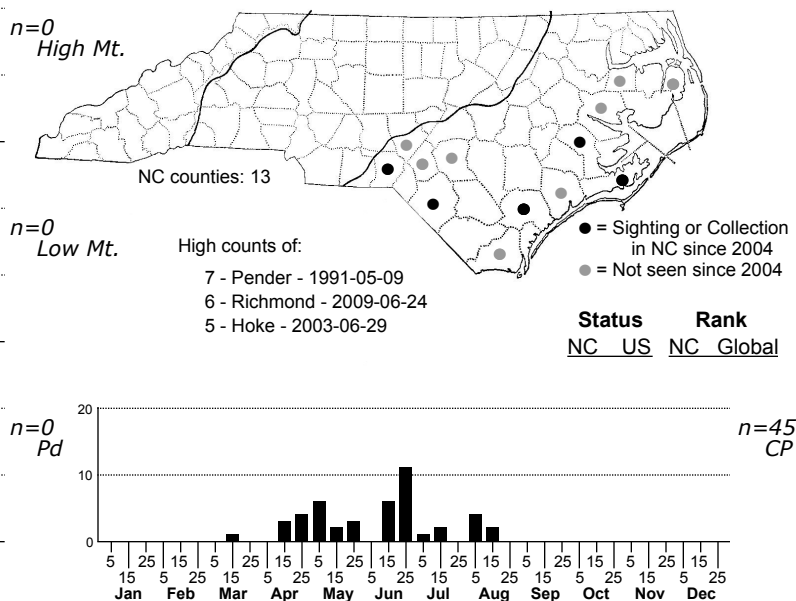
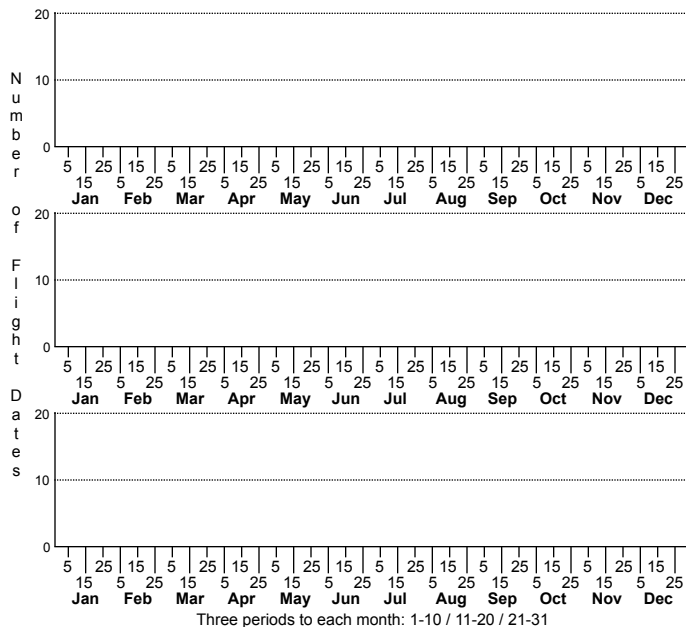


## *Fagitana littera* Marsh Fern Moth



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Noctuinae TRIBE: Xylenini

TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS: An isolated genus of two species; one occurs in China, the other in Eastern North America. This pattern is observed in a number of moth and butterfly genera. Larvae, foodplant and general color place it near *Callopietria* but genitalia and barcodes do not.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1954)

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

ID COMMENTS: The brick red color with a distinct white reverse L-shaped reniform are unique. This species should not be confused with any other species. Sexes are similar.

DISTRIBUTION: All of our records come from the Coastal Plain.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Probably three broods with adults first flying in early April.

HABITAT: Our records all come from wet swales. In addition to the floodplains of small creeks, we have records from peatlands, wet savannas, and maritime/estuarine swamp forests.

FOOD: Larvae feed on the leaves of Chain Ferns (*Woodwardia* sp.) and perhaps other fern species as well.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: Adults come readily to light but probably do not respond to bait or flowers. Larvae should be looked for by sweeping patches of ferns.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G4 [S3S4]

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 a host plant specialist, as well as restricted to a fairly narrow range of habitats. Both its host plants and habitats, however, appear to be fairly secure, and therefore the moth as well.