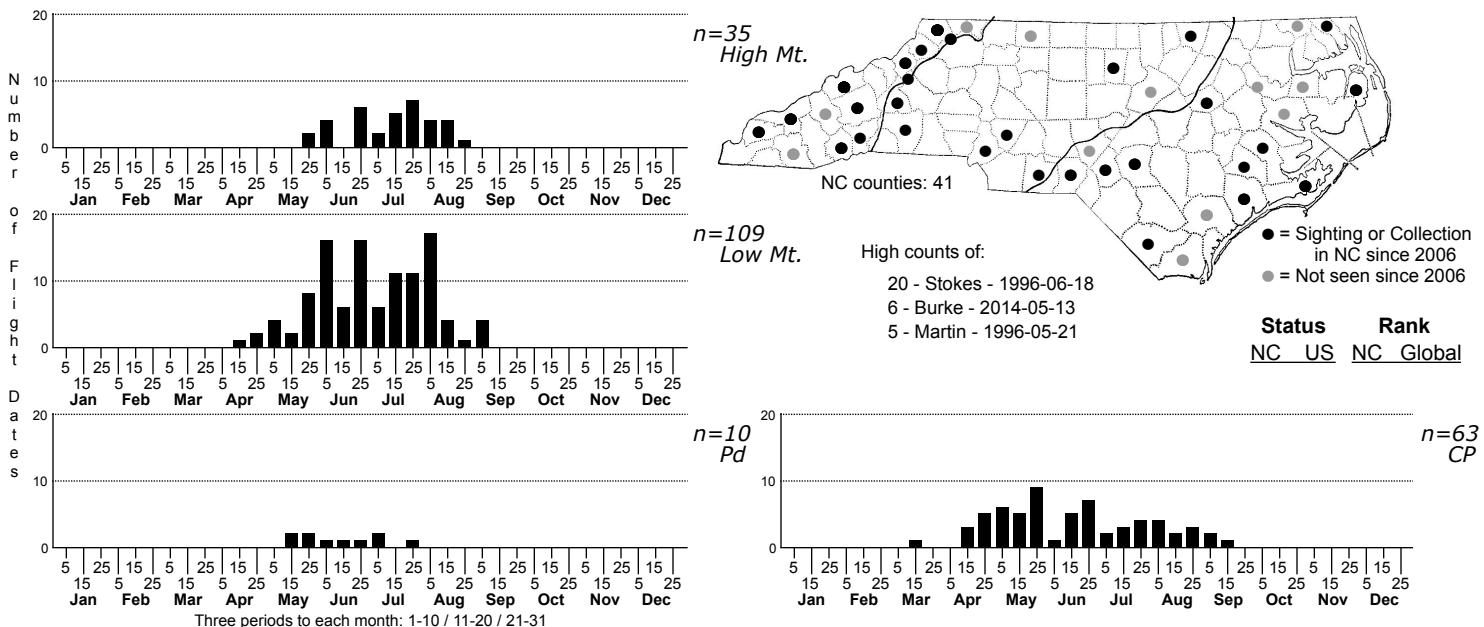


# *Callopistria mollissima* Pink-shaded Fern Moth



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Eriopinae TRIBE:

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: This is a very large genus found worldwide. We have 5 species in the US and Canada of which 4 occur in North Carolina. The genus contains reddish species which feed on ferns and is likely polyphyletic, including our 4 species.

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: The broad, reddish postmedial line and the prominent silver horseshoe mark in the reniform space serve to characterize this species. The abdominal tuft is well developed.

DISTRIBUTION: Found across the state, from the Barrier Islands to the High Mountains

FLIGHT COMMENT: Our collecting records are throughout the growing season and clear broods are not apparent. It does appear to have one less brood at higher elevations.

HABITAT: We have records from a wide range of mostly mesic or wet habitats, including maritime forests, peatlands, Longleaf Pine savannas and flatwoods in the Coastal Plain; riparian, lakeshore, and mesic forests throughout the state; and cove forests and northern hardwoods in the Mountains.

FOOD: Although Wagner et al. (2011) list Hay-scented Fern (*Sitobilium punctilobulum*) and New York Fern (*Amauropelta noveboracensis*) as foodplants, neither of those species are in the Coastal Plain where this species is common. Records are needed of which ferns are being used in the various regions of the state. There is a BugGuide record for a larva on a lady fern (*Athyrium* sp.).

OBSERVATION METHODS: Attracted to lights but no records of it coming to bait or attracted to flowers.

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: The wide distribution and broad range of habitat types occupied by this species makes this species secure within the state.