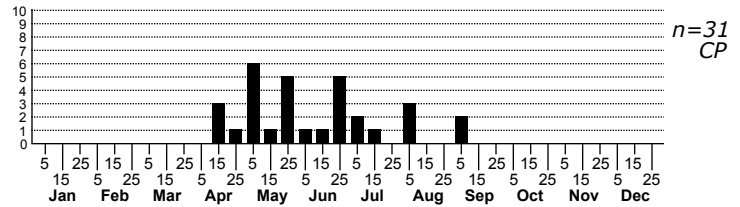
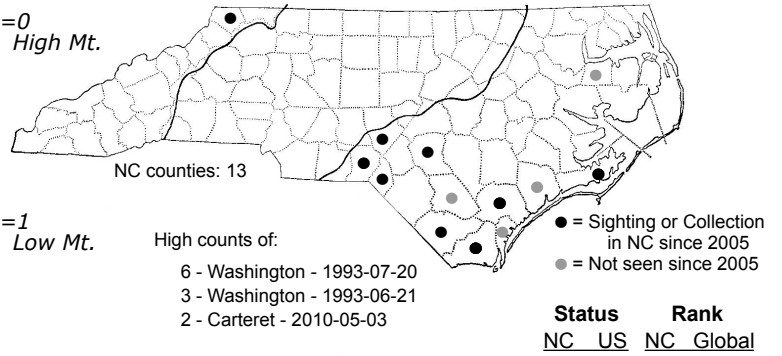
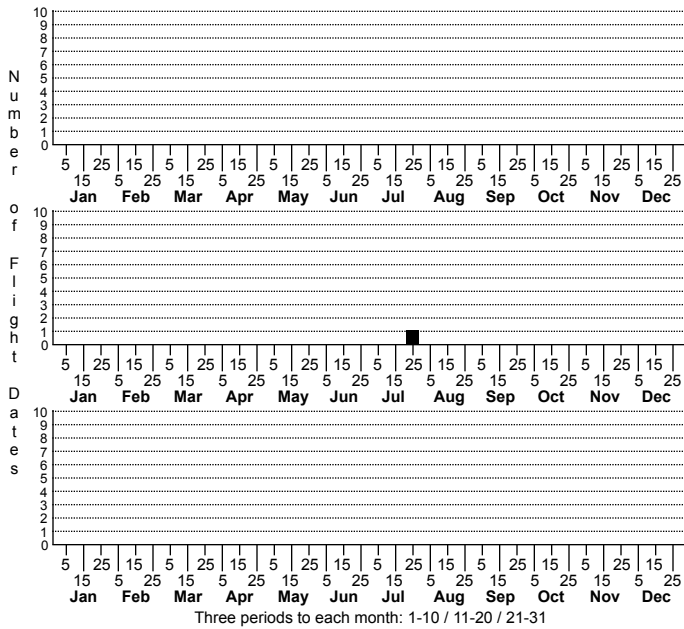


Calloptistria granitosa Granitose Fern Moth



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)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1954)

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

ID COMMENTS: The forewing pattern of this species is thin silver crosslines on a brick red background. There is a silver horseshoe mark in the reniform but much smaller than in *C. mollissima*. The forewing is gently rounded at the apex as in *C. cordata*, without an excavation as seen in *C. floridensis* and *C. mollissima*.

DISTRIBUTION: We have records from the Coastal Plain to the low mountains which is consistent with the distribution of bracken fern.

FLIGHT COMMENT: There appear to be two broods in the Coastal Plain and probably Piedmont but the data from the mountains is insufficient to know how many broods are there but one would guess it is single brooded.

HABITAT: The majority of our records come from Longleaf Pine savannas and flatwoods, habitats where Bracken is common, but strangely fewer records from sandhills habitats where Bracken is more frequent. We additionally have a few records from peatlands, at least where penetrated by roads; in the Mountains, we also have a single record from a fairly mesic habitat, although with some open fields also present.

FOOD: Larvae feed on ferns (Beadle & Leckie, 2012). In North Carolina, a single larva was found on a bracken fern (*Pteridium* sp.). Whether this species is an obligate feeder on it in our state remains to be seen; at least a few of our records come from areas (e.g., peatlands) where bracken is scarce or absent but where more mesophytic species of ferns are common.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: Attracted to lights but we have no records of it coming to bait or attracted to flowers.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G4 SNR [S2S3]

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

COMMENTS: We have few records for this species and it appears to be more of a habitat specialist than either *C. cordata* or *C. mollissima*. More studies need to be done to determine its host plants, habitat associations, distribution, and abundance before any conclusions can be reached about its conservation status.