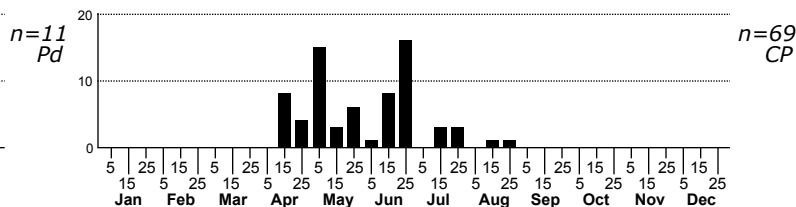
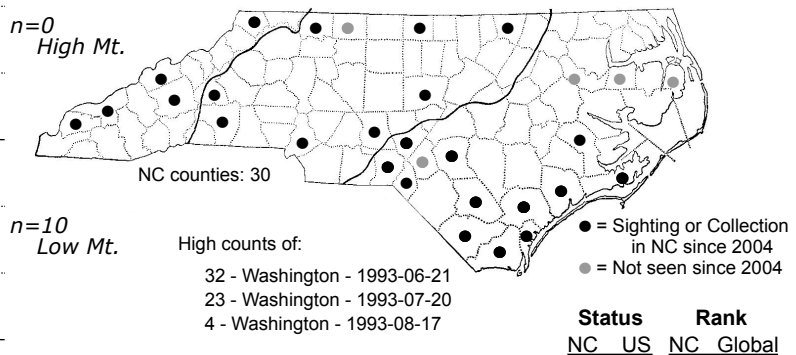
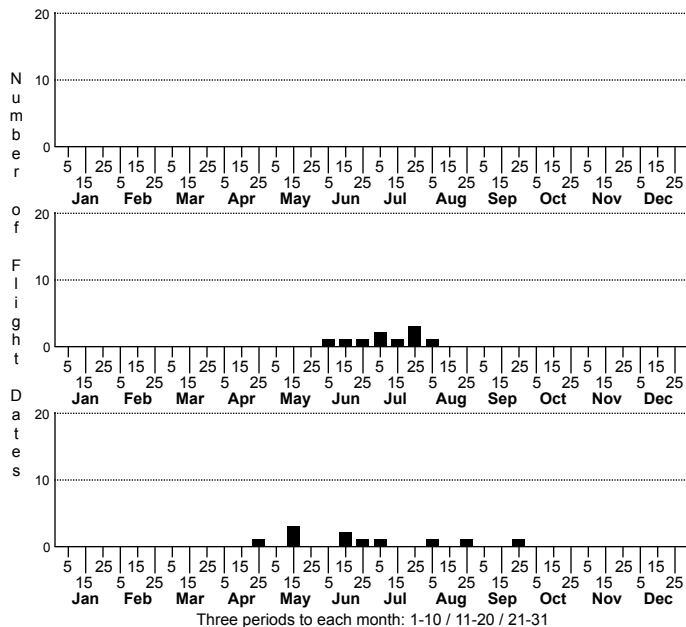


## *Calloplistria cordata* Silver-spotted Fern Moth



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 postmedian line is a series of small silver spots. Larger silver spots on a reddish background make this species's wing pattern unmistakable. Wagner et al (2011) suggest that the silver spotting may resemble water droplets which break up the pattern of this species.

DISTRIBUTION: Found across the state, including the Barrier Islands, but we currently have no records from the High Mountains.

FLIGHT COMMENT: There appear to be at least two broods in the Piedmont and Coastal Plain and probably a single summer brood in the mountains.

HABITAT: Most of our records come from Longleaf Pine habitats, including savannas, flatwoods, and sandhills, all where Bracken is a common species. Records from the Piedmont and Mountains also come from dry, open habitats, again where Bracken frequently occurs. On the other hand, we also have records from the lower Roanoke River floodplain and from peatland habitats, where Bracken would not be expected.

FOOD: Wagner et al (2011) found larvae on Bracken ferns and most site records are consistent with Bracken as the principal, if not only, host. However, there are at least a few records from North Carolina from wetter or more deeply shaded sites, where other ferns seem more likely to be used. There is a BugGuide record (Charlie Eiseman) of a larva reared from Bracken Fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*) in Durham County.

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

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 [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.