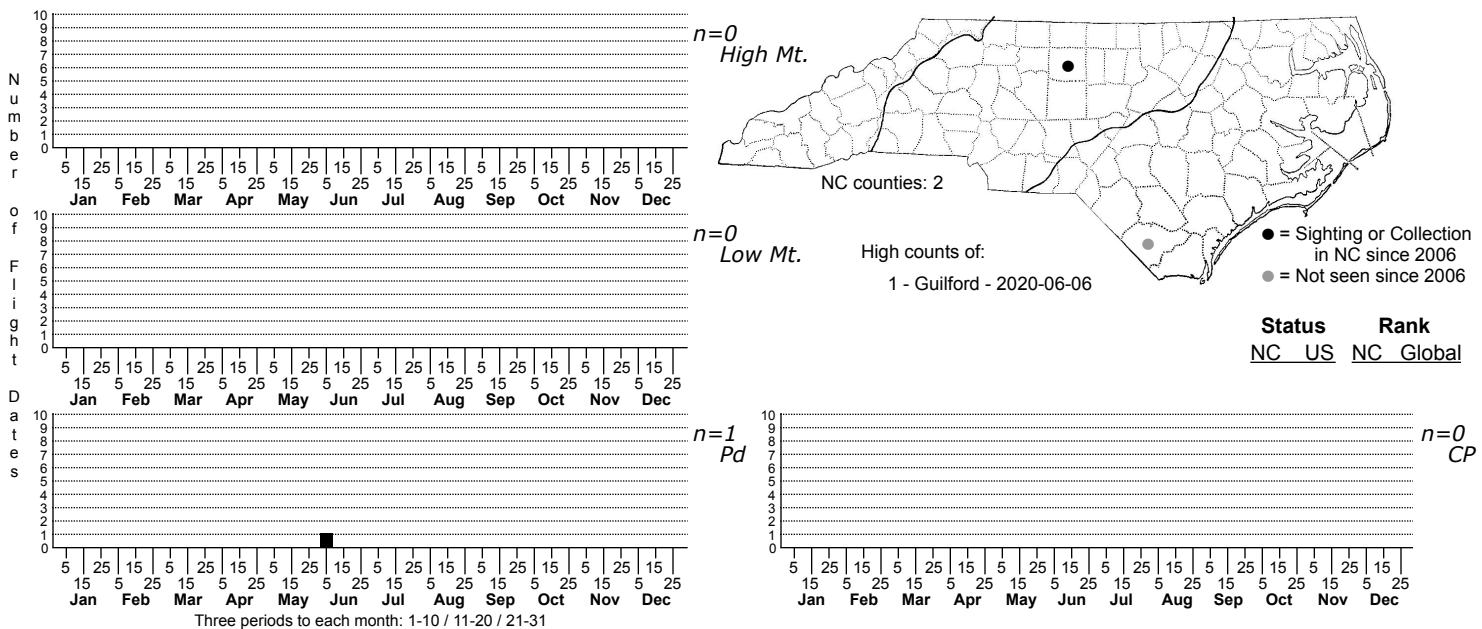


# *Elaphria fuscimacula* Brown-spotted Midget



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Noctuinae TRIBE: Elaphriini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of fourteen species in this genus that occur in North America north of Mexico (Lafontaine and Schmidt, 2010), nine of which have been recorded in North Carolina.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Grote (1882); Hampson (1909)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: A medium-small, brownish Noctuid with strongly contrasting, black orbicular and reniform spots. The head, thorax, and the ground color of the forewings is pale tan, variably dusted with reddish or olivaceous. The basal and median areas are usually darker than the antemedian and subterminal areas. The antemedian and postmedian lines are both double and filled with the pale ground color. The antemedian is smoothly excurred but the postmedian is strongly curved around the reniform, becoming more evenly incurved below the cell. The orbicular and reniform are both conspicuously filled with black; the orbicular represented by a circular dot and the reniform by an upright figure-eight. The hindwings are fuscous and unmarked, although there is a fairly wide fringe of paler scales. *< i>Elaphria grata</i>* is somewhat similar in the course of its lines and shape of its spots but is more uniformly reddish-brown and the spots are not as contrastingly black -- the reniform in particular usually has a tan area between two black spots rather than a solid black figure eight.

DISTRIBUTION: Our one record comes from the southern Coastal Plain.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: Kons and Borth (2006) list *fuscimacula* as a habitat generalist. We do not have enough information on this species in North Carolina to draw any conclusions.

FOOD: Kons (2001) lists *< i>E. fuscimacula</i>* as a species that feeds on Bahia Grass (*< i>Paspalum notatum</i>*), a tropical American species associated with roadsides and disturbed areas in our region (Weakley, 2015).

OBSERVATION METHODS: Comes to lights but we do not have enough information to determine how well.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR SU

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

COMMENTS: This is primarily a Floridian, Gulf Coast, and Texan species with the North Carolina record the farthest one to the north. Currently it is not clear whether this species is even resident in this state or just a stray. Much more needs to be known about its distribution in the state, its larval hosts and habitat associations before any conclusions can be made about its conservation status.