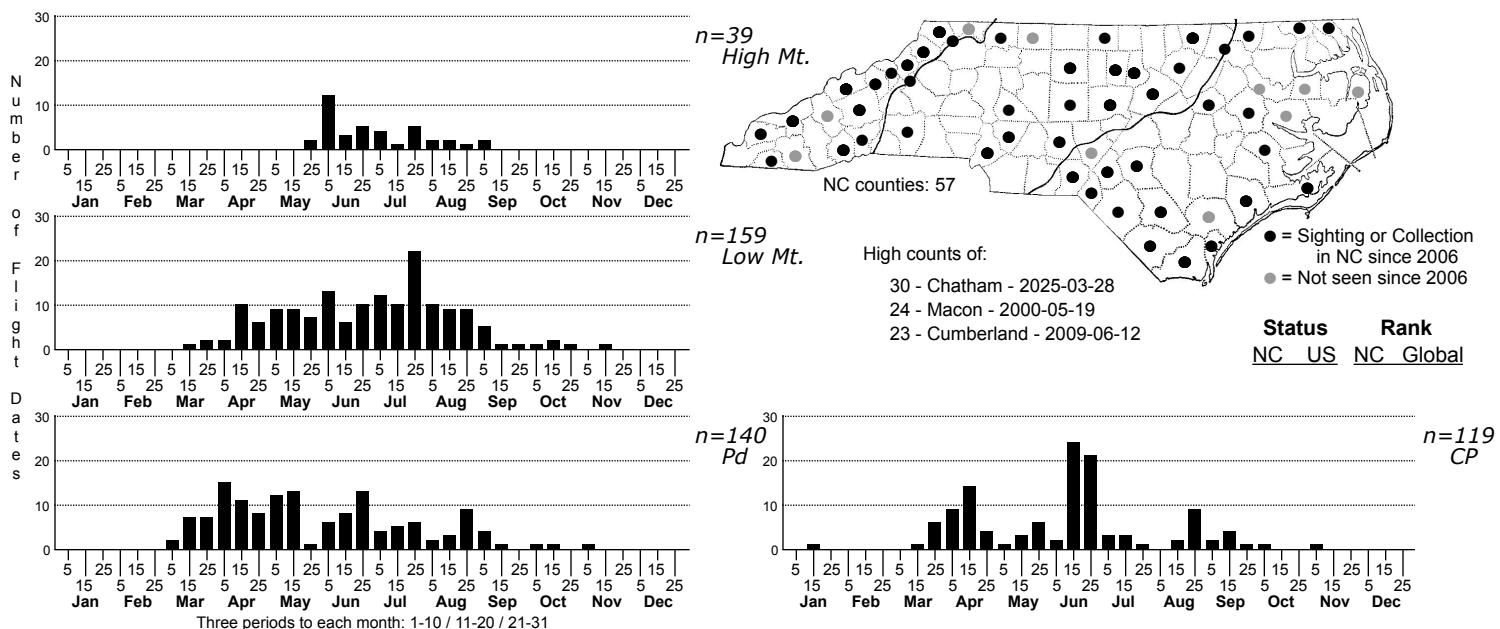


## *Elaphria versicolor* Variegated Midget



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: Covell (1984); Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: This species is more evenly dark fuscous than other members of this genus, especially in the anterior costal portion of the wing. The most conspicuous markings include a yellowish patch at the forewing apex, and a white bar or patch at the costa following the postmedial line. The filling between the reniform and the postmedial line is a mix of black and yellowish scales, a key difference distinguishing this species from chalcedonia, which has a solid black filling at that location (Forbes, 1954). The hindwing is evenly fuscous rather than white, as in chalcedonia.

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: We have records from nearly all types of forests and shrublands found across the state.

FOOD: Larvae have been reared on epiphytic algae, bark, galls, fruit, and foliage and have been observed on a number of different deciduous and coniferous trees and shrubs (Wagner et al., 2011). Reported hosts include fir (*Abies*), birch (*Betula*), larch (*Larix*), spruce (*Picea*), pine (*Pinus*), and hemlock (*Tsuga*). We do not have any feeding records in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S5]

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

COMMENTS: