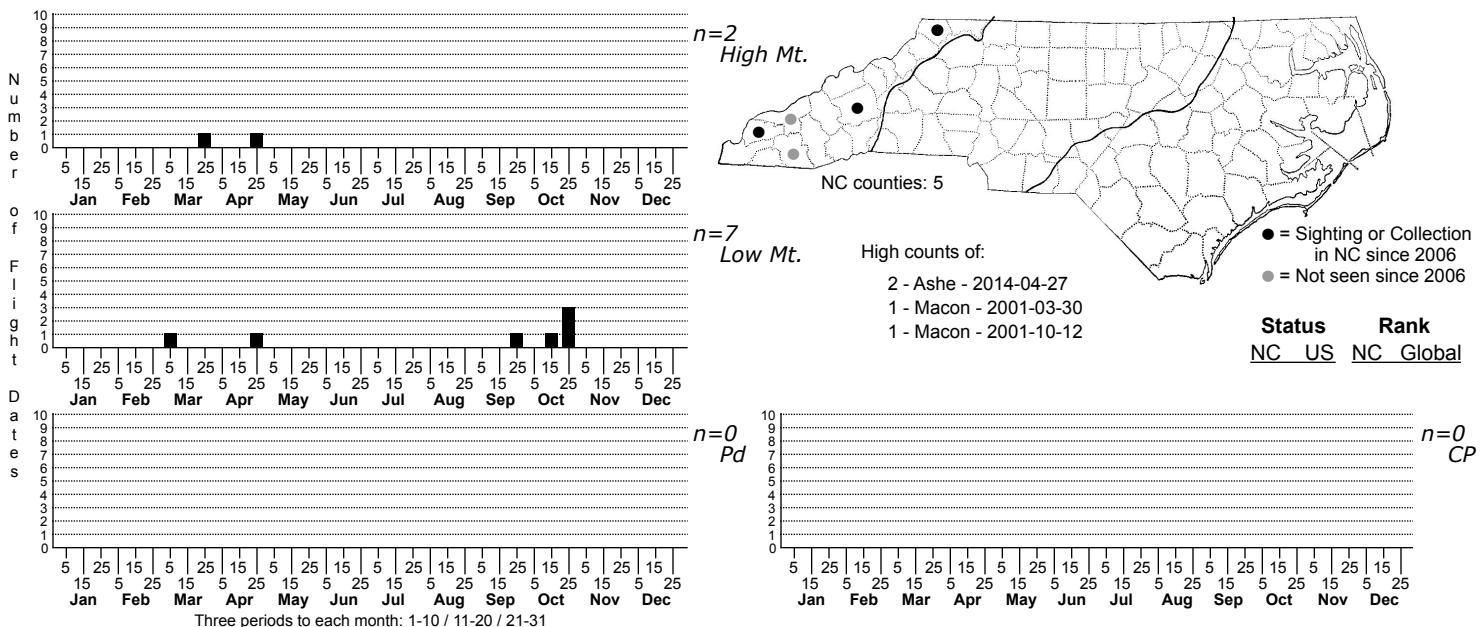


# *Lithophane petulca* Wanton Pinion



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Noctuinae TRIBE: Xylenini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of 51 species in this genus that occur in North America (Lafontaine and Schmidt, 2010, 2015), 25 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: In the typical form, this species is fairly uniformly colored, with the ground color an even violet gray-brown with strong rufous and bright luteous shadings (Forbes, 1954). Both the reniform and orbicular are outlined by pale rings. The hindwings have a fringe that is shaded with rufous. In form ferrealis, the ground color is blackish and the costa is a contrasting whitish or luteous gray. *Lithophane hemina* is similar but has a deep brown ground color and more diffuse lines and reniform spot.

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: Our records come from mesic forests in the mountains.

FOOD: Larvae feed on a number of hardwood trees and shrubs, including a number of species associated with riparian habitats, including alder (*Alnus*), birch (*Betula*), elm (*Ulmus*), poplar (*Populus*), and willow (*Salix*); other hosts include oak (*Quercus*), hickory (*Carya*), cherry (*Prunus*), and blueberry (*Vaccinium*) (Wagner et al., 2011).

OBSERVATION METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S2S4]

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

COMMENTS: