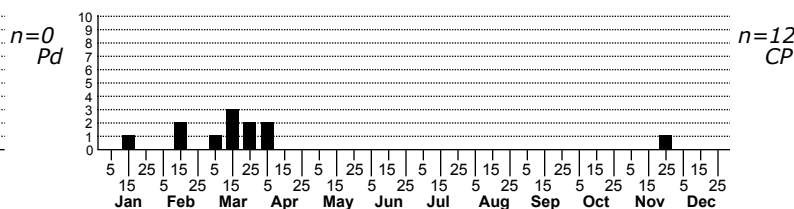
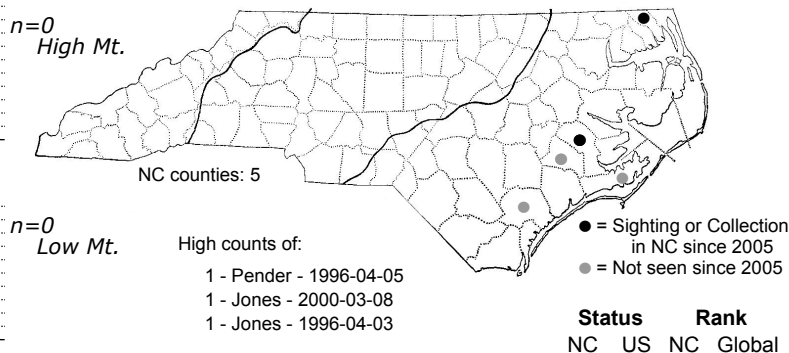


# *Lithophane abita* Cypress Pinion



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: Leckie and Beadle (2018)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Brou and Lafontaine (2009)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: A medium-sized, gray Pinion with ochre shading around the reniform spot. The ground color of the forewing is a fairly uniform pale gray, somewhat darker in some specimens. In addition to the orange-brown shading around the reniform, a black dash in the fold connecting the antemedian and postmedian lines is distinctive (Brou and Lafontaine, 2009); a black crescent also occurs below the reniform. Hindwings are pinkish-fuscous. *Lithophane adipel* has a similar black dash but is usually more darkly colored and lacks the ochre shade at the reniform.

DISTRIBUTION: Probably occurs throughout at least the Outer Coastal Plain

FLIGHT COMMENT: Like other members of his genus, this is a winter-flying species with record coming from late November to early April

HABITAT: Almost all of our records come from riverine cypress swamps. One record from Camden County, however, may come from a non-riverine swamp forest. None come from cypress savannas.

FOOD: The species was believed to be associated with Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) but larvae were not observed by Brou and Lafontaine (2009). A larva photographed by George Smiley (BugGuide, 2014), however, was found feeding on Bald Cypress in Texas. We do not have any feeding records in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: Comes at least to some extent to blacklights. Although all of our records come from light, this species is likely to come to bait, perhaps even more reliably, as in other members of this genus

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G4 SU [S2S3]

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

COMMENTS: This species is a habitat specialist and currently has only a few records from North Carolina. However, it is almost certainly undersampled due to its winter flight period. More need to be learned about its distribution, host plant choice, and habitat associations before its conservation needs can be accurately assessed. In particular, more surveys need to be conducted in pond cypress savannas to determine whether this species makes use of them, as is suggested by at least one record from Florida (Brou and Lafontaine, 2009).