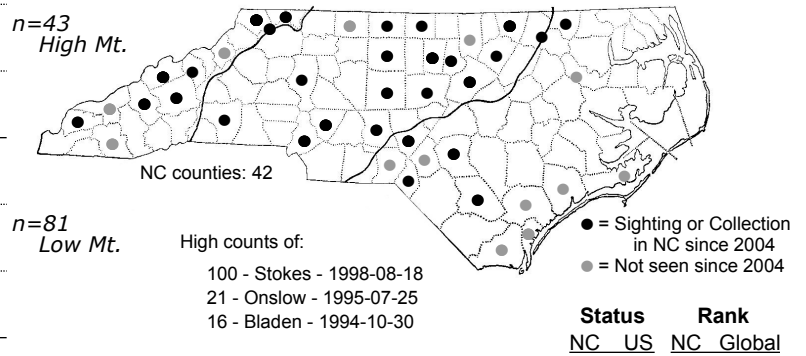
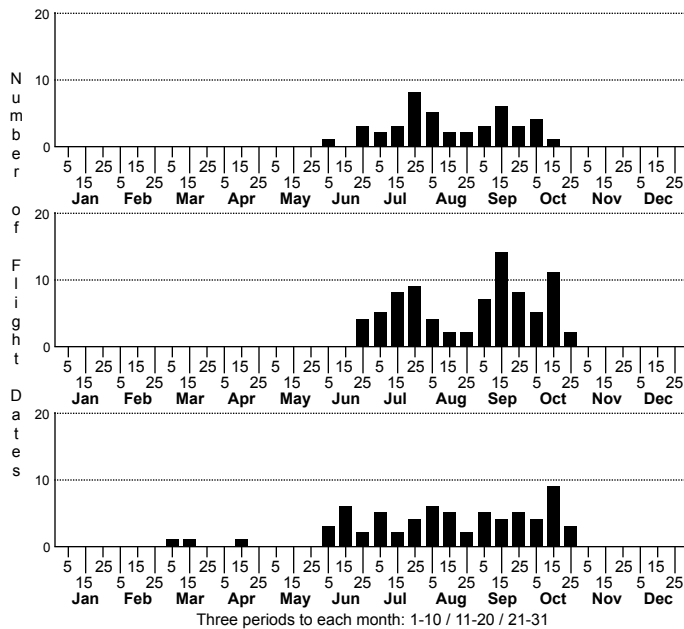


## *Abagrotis alternata* Greater Red Dart Moth



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Noctuinae TRIBE: Noctuini  
TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984); Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: *A. anchoceloides* is similar in pattern but has spots that are smaller than the space between them; the subterminal line is also usually continuous in *A. anchoceloides* and the terminal space is usually not contrastingly paler than the rest of the wing (Forbes, 1954).

DISTRIBUTION: Nearly statewide, but relatively uncommon on the coast and potentially absent from some counties.

FLIGHT COMMENT: *A. alternata* is uncommon in mid-summer when *A. anchoceloides* is at its peak but is abundant in the fall (J.B. Sullivan, pers. obs.).

HABITAT: Woodlands and forests (Wagner et al., 2011). Our records come almost entirely from hardwood forests, with few records from heathy flatwoods or sand ridges. Both dry and mesic hardwood forests are used.

FOOD: Feeds on dead leaves in the early instars but switches to hardwood trees and shrubs in later stages. Wagner et al. (2011) state that most records come from Blueberry and Oak, but other heaths, Cherry, and Walnut are also used. Beadle and Leckie (2012) also list hickory, apple, and spruce. We do not have any feeding records in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS:

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: