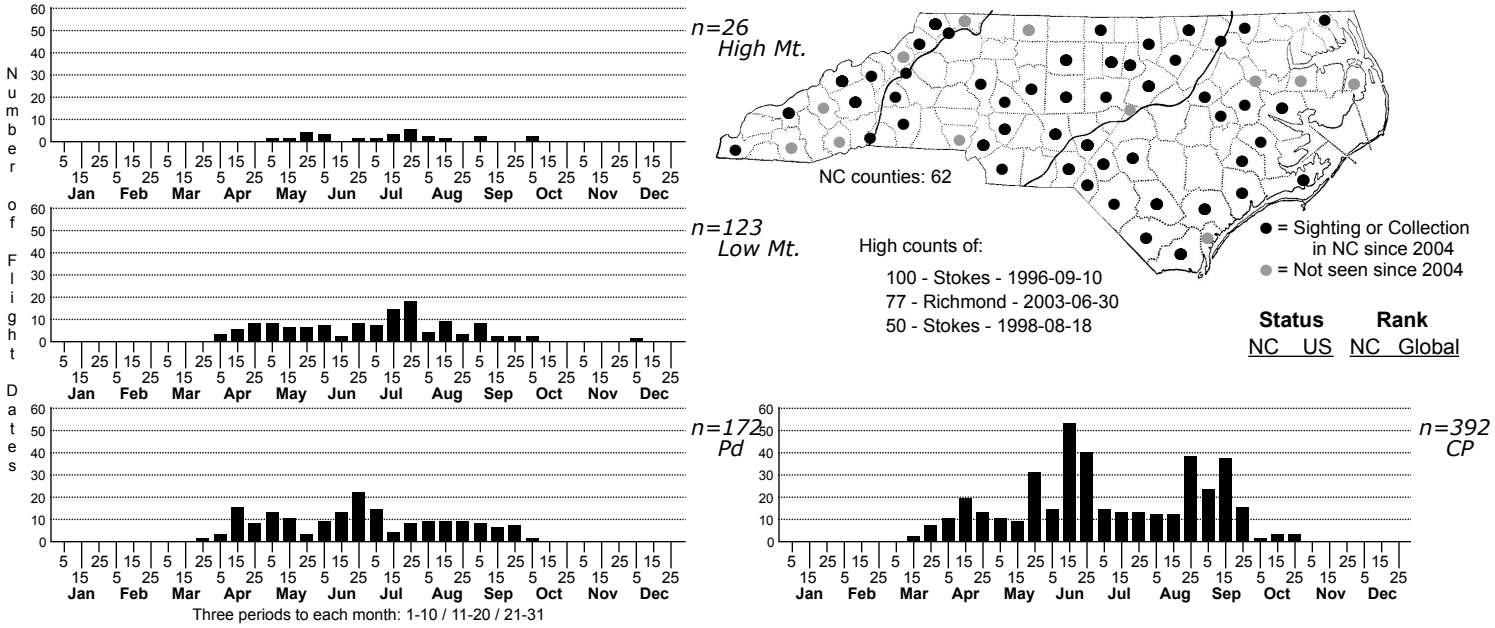
Anavitrinella pampinaria Common Gray Moth



FAMILY: Geometridae SUBFAMILY: Ennominae TRIBE: Boarmiini
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: A genus of four North American species, only one reaches North Carolina; the remainder are from the western US.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984); Beadle and Leckie (2012)
ONLINE PHOTOS:
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1948)
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Forbes (1948); Wagner et al. (2001)

ID COMMENTS: Moderately long-winged, powdery gray with black lines, patterned similarly to other geometrids loosely termed the Grays. The base of the abdomen has a black bar followed by a white ring, which distinguishes Anavitrinella from most of the Grays except Iridopsis humaria and I. pergracilis, both of which have a bulge in the postmedian at vein C2; in Anavitrinella the postmedian is wavy but lacks a noticeable bulge at C2 (Forbes, 1948). The two Cleora species have similar rings at the base of the abdomen, but have the white ring at the base followed by a black patch. On the underside of the wings, the continuous, dark marginal bands also separate pampinaria from most of the other grays except members of the genus Hypomecis, which are larger and unlikely to be confused with this species because of their much longer pectinations on the antennae and the lack of the basal rings on the abdomen.

DISTRIBUTION: Occurs statewide

FLIGHT COMMENT: Appears early in the spring and continues well into the fall. Breeding is continuous throughout the growing cycle.

HABITAT: Found in virtually all habitats that have been sampled for moths in the state.

FOOD: Larvae are broadly polyphagous, known to eat a wide variety of forbs, hardwoods, conifers, and even grasses. Wagner et al. (2001) specifically list maple (Acer), alder (Alnus), birch (Betula), Queen Anne's-lace (Daucus carota), soybean (Glycine max), cotton (Gossypium), larch (Larix), apple (Malus), spruce (Picea), oak (Quercus), willow (Salix), goldenrod (Solidago), and blueberry (Vaccinium). In North Carolina, a larva has been reared from mimosa.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The species is attracted to lights but not baits. Larvae will turn up in beatings but it is difficult to specifically search for them.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 [S5]

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

COMMENTS: With its statewide distribution, broad range of host plants, and extremely generalized habitat associations, this species appears to be very secure.