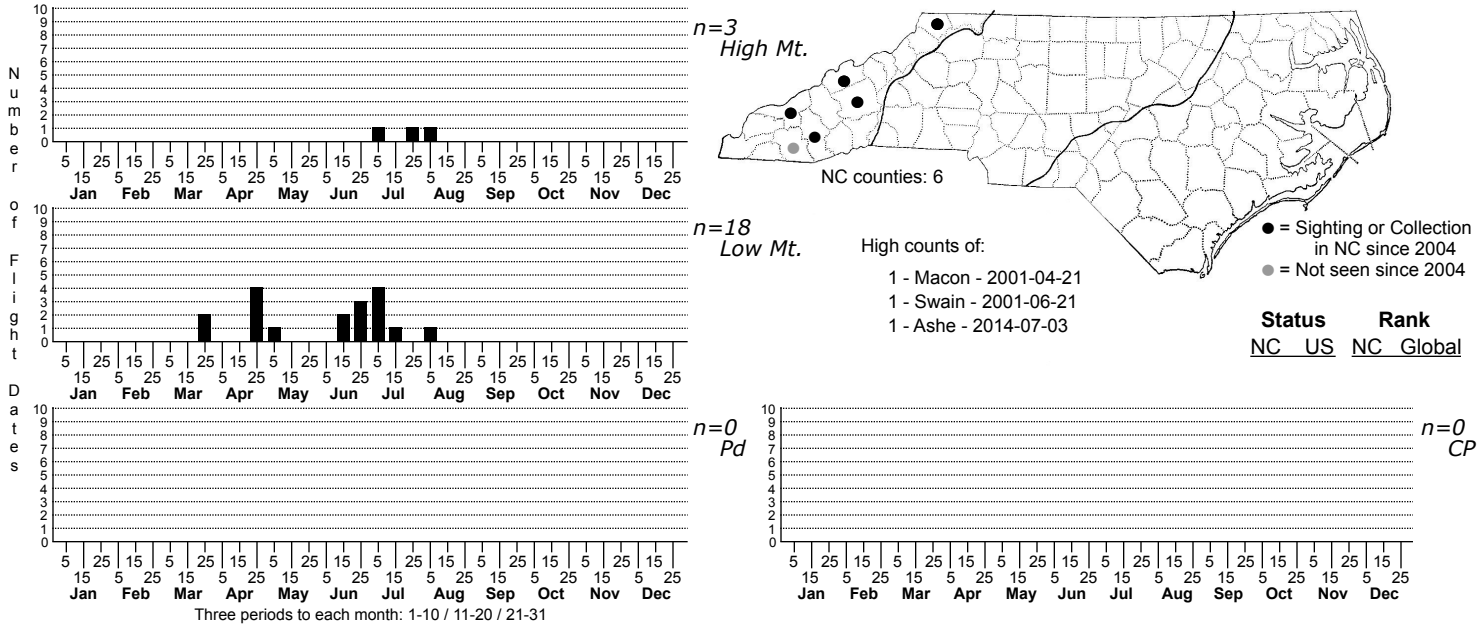
Acasis viridata Olive-and-black Carpet Moth



FAMILY: Geometridae SUBFAMILY: Larentiinae TRIBE: Lobophorini
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: A Laurentine genus of 5 species that are widely dispersed across much of the Northern Hemisphere. A single species occurs in North America, including the mountains of North Carolina.

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

ID COMMENTS: The small size and greenish color (which fades in pinned specimens) will allow identification of this species. Some species of Eupithecia appear greenish but the hue is different and the wing shape is very different. The green appears as horizontal streaks across a peppered background but becomes yellowish in spread specimens. Sexes are similar.

DISTRIBUTION: Found throughout our mountains usually above 3000’ and becoming more common at higher elevations.

FLIGHT COMMENT: We do not have enough data to be certain of the number of broods but it appears to be multiple brooded.

HABITAT: Our records all appear to come from moist, fairly high elevation forests (from about 3000’ upward). This is consistent with the distribution of V. cassinoides, which Weakley (2015) describes as associated with "bogs, moist forests, high elevation forests and outcrops."

FOOD: Forbes (1948) lists Northern Wild Raisin (Viburnum cassinoides) as the foodplant but other species of Viburnum are suspected to be acceptable. Covell (1984) reports that larvae also feed on Possumhaw Viburnum (Viburnum nudum). We do not have any feeding records in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: This species is clearly attracted to light but not likely to come to bait or flowers. The small size of adults probably results in it being overlooked often in light trap catches.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [SU]

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

COMMENTS: We have very few records for this species, which appears to be fairly specialized in terms of its habitats. The cool, moist, montane habitats that this species occupies are likely to be highly vulnerable to climate change. More surveys need to be conducted, however, to determine its actual distribution, abundance, and habitat associations before its conservation status can be determined.