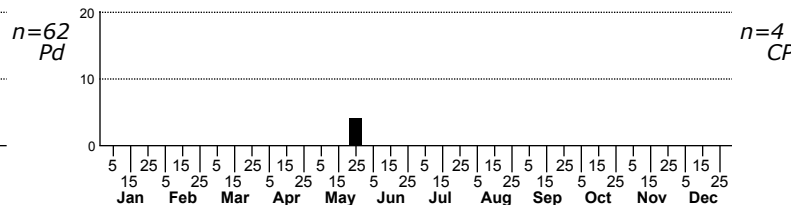
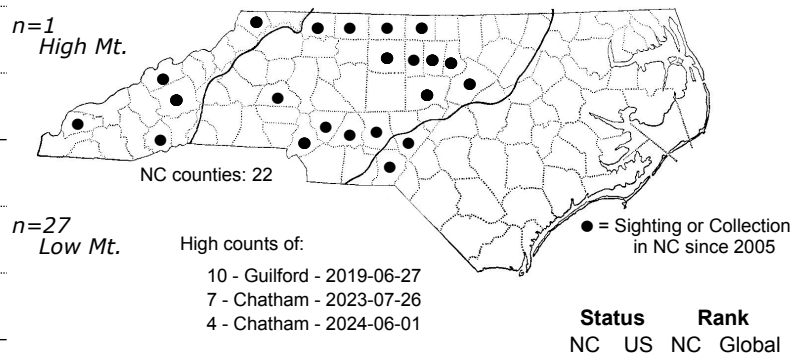
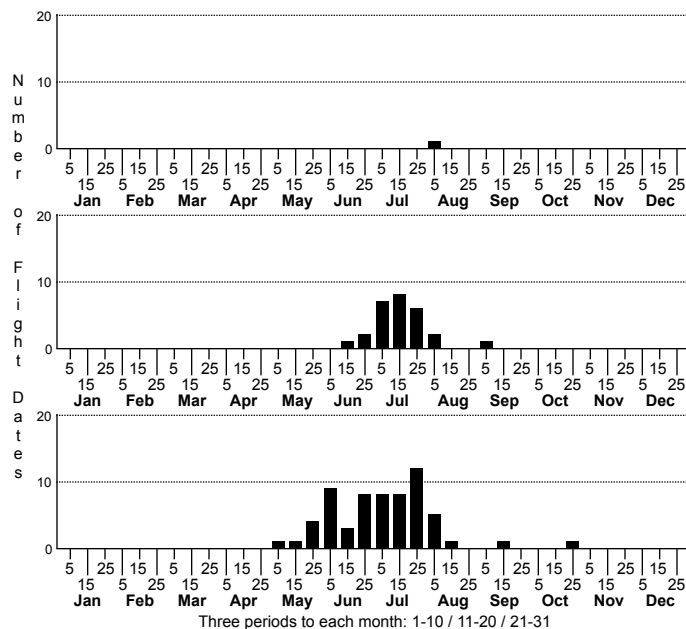


## *Martyringa latipennis* Square-spotted Martyringa



FAMILY: Lecithoceridae SUBFAMILY: Oecophorinae TRIBE: Oecophorini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: *Martyringa* is a small genus with four recognized species that occur in North America, India, and Southeast Asia.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Hodges (1974)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The following description is based primarily on that of Clarke (1941). The labial palp, antenna, head, thorax, legs are ochreous. The second segment of the labial palp is shaded with fuscous on the basal two-thirds outwardly, and speckled basally inwardly. The third segment has an indistinct fuscous, sub-basal annulus. The antenna is narrowly annulated with fuscous basally and shaded with fuscous apically. The thorax and base of the tegula are strongly overlaid with fuscous. The pale ochreous ground color of the forewing is largely obscured by fuscous shading. At the basal third there are two large blackish-fuscous spots followed by a broad, pale ochreous streak, and a third blackish-fuscous spot at the end of cell. In addition to these marks, a pale ochreous spot is usually evident just anterior to the paired dark spots at one-third. A pale ochreous sub-terminal line extends perpendicular from the costa then angles towards the termen before angling back towards the inner margin. The termen is pale ochreous and the cilia grayish fuscous. The hindwing is pale cinereous and shaded with fuscous toward the apex. The terminal edge is pale ochreous, and the cilia grayish fuscous. The legs are shaded and banded with fuscous except at the joints. This species is superficially similar to *M. ravicapitis*, but the latter resembles a dulled-down version of *M. latipennis*. In addition, the paired black spots at one-third are displaced relative to one another, and the subterminal line is more jagged and W-shaped. In *M. latipennis* the two paired spots are about equidistant from a reference point such as the wing base, and the subterminal line is less jagged, with the line running perpendicular to the costa before angulating posteriorly.

DISTRIBUTION: *Martyringa latipennis* is found in eastern North America, including southern Canada (Ontario; Quebec) and much of the eastern US. The range in the US extends from the New England states to as far south as Georgia and extreme northern Florida, and westward to Arkansas, Missouri and Illinois. This species is absent from most of the southeastern Coastal Plain. As of 2020, our records are all from the Piedmont and lower elevations in the mountains.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Adults have been observed from April through October in different areas of the range, with a peak in activity from June through August. As of 2020, our records are from early May through late October, with a seasonal peak in June and July.

HABITAT: Most of our records come from residential neighborhoods. Those from natural habitats appear to be associated mainly with mesic or wet hardwood forests.

FOOD: The larvae have never been discovered and the hosts are unknown.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S4S5

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

COMMENTS: Populations are widespread in the lower mountains and Piedmont and appear to be secure.

March 2025

The Moths of North Carolina - Early Draft

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