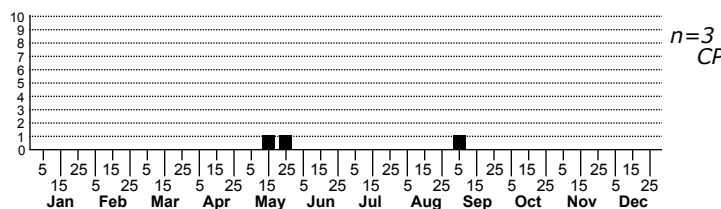
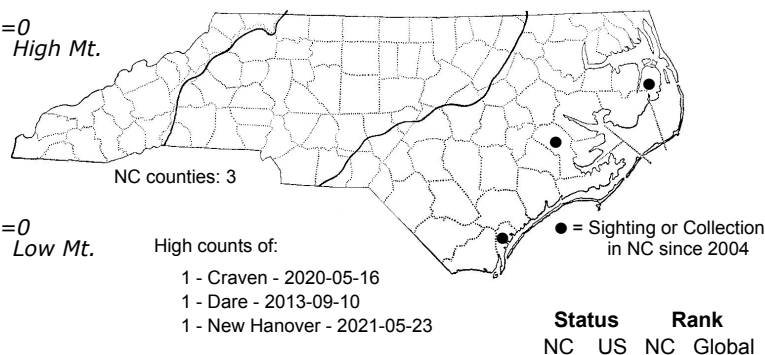


# *Stathmopoda elyella* Golden Stathmopoda



FAMILY: Oecophoridae SUBFAMILY: Stathmopodinae TRIBE:  
TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Busck (1909)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Needham (1947)

ID COMMENTS: The following description is based in part on that of Busck (1909). The labial palps and basal joint of the antenna are golden yellow, while the rest of the antenna is yellowish fuscous with narrow black annulations. The antennal flagellum of the male has long setae along most of its length. The face, head, and thorax are golden yellow, while the ground of the forewing is shining bronzy yellow. On fresh specimens there is a conspicuous dark brown to light fuscous longitudinal streak that extends from the extreme base of the costa inwardly, then along the middle of the wing to the wing tip. The hindwing is light bronzy fuscous and the abdomen is yellow. Both wings have conspicuous, elongated cilia that are most prevalent on the inner margin. The forelegs are dark fuscous and the other legs yellow with fuscous joints. The rear legs have conspicuous spines and the adults characteristically posture when at rest with the rear legs elevated above the substrate.

DISTRIBUTION: *Stathmopoda elyella* is primarily found in coastal areas along the Atlantic Seaboard from Connecticut to southern Florida. The species is relatively common in Florida, but only a few scattered populations have been found farther north in coastal North Carolina, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. There is an apparent disjunct in Illinois (Microleps.org). As of 2022, we have only three records for the state.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The few scattered records that are available span from March through September. We have records from May and September.

HABITAT: Populations are dependent on ferns for their successful reproduction, but the specific species that are used outside of Florida are not known.

FOOD: This species uses the Golden Leather Fern (*Acrostichum aureum*) in Florida, but it is a subtropical species that does not occur in

North Carolina. Terry Harris (microleps.org) suspected that this species uses *Dryopteris* in Illinois, but definitive proof is lacking.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: The adults occasionally visit lights, and the adults of another *Stathmopoda* have been collected by gently sweeping ferns. We encourage naturalists to seek out the fern hosts in North Carolina.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR SU

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: This species is somewhat locally common in southern Florida, but has been rarely collected outside of the state. It is presumably rare in North Carolina where we have only two records as of 2020.