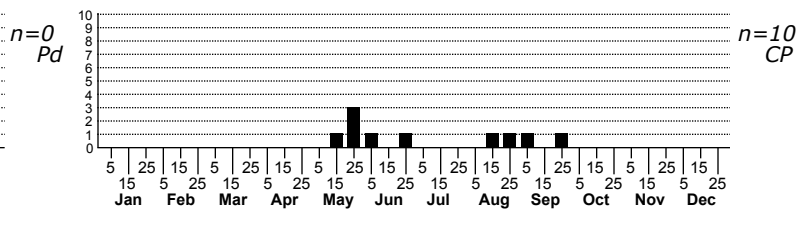
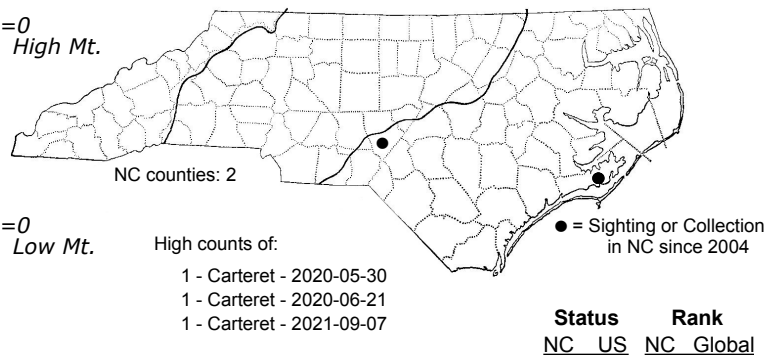


Eteobalea sexnotella No common name



FAMILY: Cosmopterigidae SUBFAMILY: Cosmopteriginae TRIBE:

TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: *Eteobalea* is a holarctic genus with approximately 50 species. None are known to occur in the Neotropical Region, and four species occur in North America north of Mexico (Hodges, 1978). Some authorities recognize two genera (*Stagmatophora* and *Eteobalea*), but Hodges (1978) synonymized the two because he could not find a unique set of characters to distinguish between them.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: This is a distinctive species with a white head, a labial palp with two annuli, and a dark forewing with white and metallic-silvery markings. The following is based on the descriptions by Chambers (1878) and Walsingham (1907). The head is white, and the thorax dark brown to blackish. The antenna is dark brown, with a small white spot at the end of the basal joint. The labial palp is creamy white, with two brownish annuli on the terminal joint. The ground color of the forewing is dark brown to blackish, with three shining white markings on the costal margin and two metallic silver spots near the dorsal margin. At the basal one-fifth of the wing, there is an oblique white costal streak that crosses the fold and typically terminates before reaching the inner margin. A similar, but shorter streak is at one-half that is sometimes broken into two spots. A large white spot is present on the costa at about four-fifths, and a second smaller spot is present at the apex. Just below the dorsal margin there are two metallic silvery spots. The first is at about one-half the wing length and just anterior to the second costal streak, while the second is at about three-fourths. The hindwing and cilia on both wings are light brownish gray, while the abdomen is brownish fuscous, with whitish marks along the sides. The legs are whitish and banded with dark brown.

This species is similar to *E. wyattella*, but the occiput is uniformly shining white, the base of the forewing is dark brown, and the hindwing and cilia are pale gray. In *E. wyattella*, the posterior margin of the occiput is dark brown, the base of the forewing is white, and the hindwing and cilia are dark gray.

DISTRIBUTION: *Eteobalea sexnotella* is found in eastern North America from the New England states and southern Ontario southward to Florida, and westward to eastern Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Illinois. Local populations are restricted to where the host plants are present. As of 2024, we have records from both the Sandhills and from several coastal counties.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Adults have been found from January through August in Florida, and from April through September in other areas outside of North Carolina. As of 2021, our records are from late May through the third week of June.

HABITAT: This species is a specialist on bluecurls and presumably uses both Forked Bluecurls and Dune Bluecurls in North Carolina. These species prefer somewhat dry, open areas where the seeds can successfully germinate. Forked Bluecurls can be found in old fields, the edges of woodlands, under powerline clearings, on dunes, and in similar open habitats, while Dune Bluecurls is a dune specialist. We have records for *E. sexnotella* from dune and spoil sites at the coast, and from sandy, dry habitats in the Sandhills.

FOOD: *Eteobalea sexnotella* is the only species of moth that specializes on bluecurls and is unique in producing stem galls on these hosts. The known hosts include Forked Bluecurls (*Trichostema dichotomum*), Florida Scrub Bluecurls (*T. suffrutescens*; Hodges, 1978), and the recently described Dune Bluecurls (*T. nesophilum*).

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights. The galls are easy to spot on bluecurls, and more information is needed on the hosts, larval ecology, and life history.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S2S3]

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: As of 2024, we have only a few site records for the state.