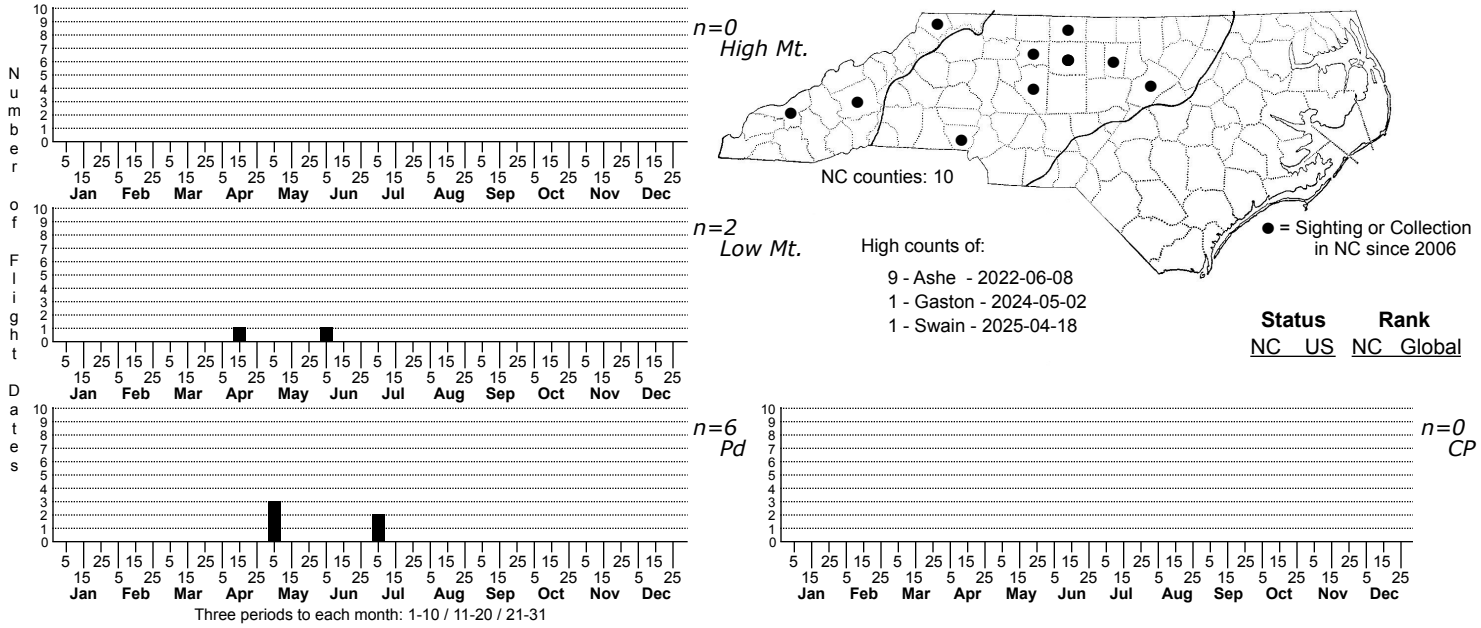
Landryia impositella None



FAMILY: Scythrididae SUBFAMILY: TRIBE:
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:
ONLINE PHOTOS:
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Landry (1991)
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Eiseman (2022)

ID COMMENTS: In this species, the forewing ground color can be brown, olive-brown, dark-brown, or blackish-brown, with a moderate or marked brassy, cupreous or purplish metallic luster (Landry, 1991). Most specimens have two whitish or pale-ochreous fasciae, with one in the basal half and the other in the pre-apical area at the end of the cell. The basal fascia extends from the base below the fold, then curves for a short distance posteriorly along inner margin before curving towards the costal margin. It terminated just before the costa. In populations in the eastern US, the second fascia is most commonly represented as a well-defined spot in the subapical region. Landry (1991) noted that specimens are occasionally encountered that have the fasciae greatly reduced or entirely missing. Other variants are also discribed in his publication.

Landry (1991) noted that the adults of L. impositella can be very similar to those of L. matutella in size, color and fasciate pattern of the forewings, but that the pale fasciae are more distinct and more sharply defined than in L. matutella. The latter is not known from North Carolina and has a more northern and western distribution. The great majority of specimens from the eastern US and NC have the basal fascia that produces an hourglass pattern when resting individuals are viewed from above. These conform to L. impositella as described and illustrated by Landry (1991), while BOLD specimens of L. matutella do not show any specimens of L. matutella with the hourglass pattern. As such, the real issue with confusing L. impositella with L. matutella is when a specimen only has either a basal and pre-apical spot, or a greatly reduced patterning with little markings. These should be dissected to confirm their identity.

DISTRIBUTION: Landry (1991) documented this species as occurring through a broad swath of North America in areas with mesic conditions and cool climates. This includes much of southern Canada from British Columbia to Nova Scotia, portions of the northern and central Rockies, and in the eastern US from New Hampshire, Massachusetts and New York westward to Illinois and Iowa, and southward to Maryland, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, eastern Tennessee, North Carolina, central Georgia and central Alabama. As of 2025, All of our records are from the Piedmont and lower-elevations in the Blue Ridge.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Landry (1991) noted that the adults occur from mid- or late-May in the southern parts of the range, to early-September in northern and montane locations. As of 2025, our records are from mid-April through early-July.

HABITAT: Local populations are generally associated with sunny or partially-sunny habitats such as open, mesic woodlands, road and powerline corridors, cleared areas along hiking trail, and similar sites that support the host species.

FOOD: Larvae have been reared from various species of asters (Landry, 1991; Eiseman, 2022), including Heartleaf Aster (Symphyotrichum cordifolium), Smooth Blue Aster (S. laeve), Calico Aster (S. lateriflorum), New England Aster (S. novae-angliae) and Purplestem Aster (S. puniceum).

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are diurnal and are often seen nectaring on wildflowers such as Erigeron spp.; also look for the mines on the undersides of Heartleaf Aster and other asters.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S3S4]

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: