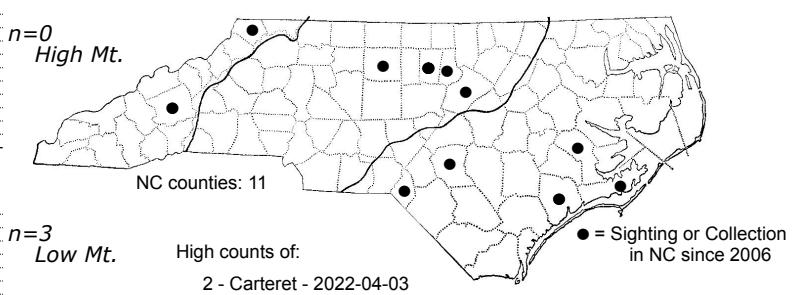
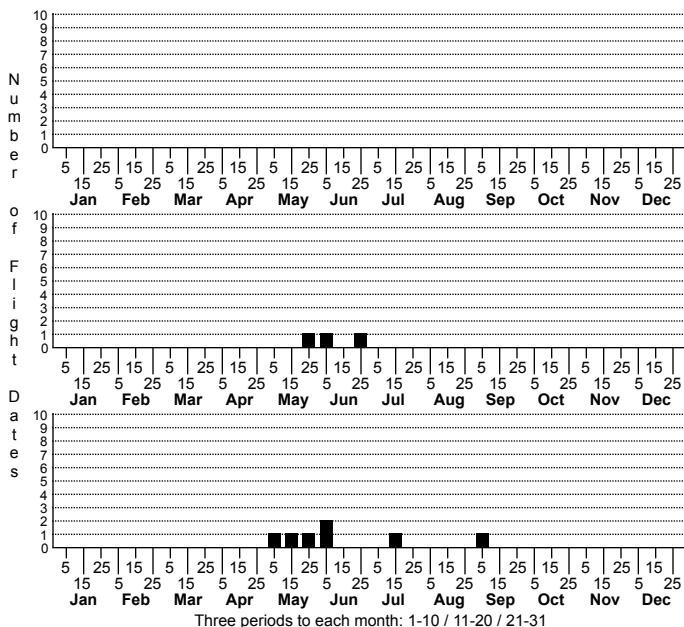


# *Monochroa quinquepunctella* Five-spotted Twirler



| Status | Rank |    |        |
|--------|------|----|--------|
| NC     | US   | NC | Global |

n=8  
CP

FAMILY: Gelechiidae SUBFAMILY: Anomologinae TRIBE:  
TAXONOMIC COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: *Monochroa quinquepunctella* is a distinctive *Monochroa* that has five black spots on each forewing, with the first four arranged to form a rhomboidal pattern. The following description is based mostly on those of Forbes (1923) and Busck (1903). The labial palp varies from light tan or whitish to light yellowish-brown, with the tip a darker brown. The antenna has alternating bands of light brownish-tan and darker brown annulations. The face is whitish, and the head and thorax dull yellowish-brown, with the latter often having a black spot on the posterior tip. The forewing ground color is concolorous with that of the head and thorax, and is typically some shade of golden-yellow or yellowish-brown with grayish or medium-brown dusting. There are five black spots on each forewing that include a parallel pair at around one-fourth and one-half the wing length that are oblique and form a rhomboidal pattern, and a fifth central spot at around three-fourths. The fringe is concolorous with the forewing ground and often has a broken line of blackish scales or spots near the base. The hindwing is more-or-less concolorous with the forewing ground color, while the legs are dusky colored with pale annulations on the ends of the metatarsal segments.

DISTRIBUTION: *Monochroa quinquepunctella* is found throughout most of the eastern US and adjoining areas of southern Canada (Ontario; Quebec; Nova Scotia). In the US the range extends from Maine and other New England states southwestward to northern Florida, Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi, and westward to central Texas, Arkansas, Missouri and Illinois. This species occurs statewide in North Carolina.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been documented from March through October in different areas of the range, with a seasonal peak typically in May and June. Northern populations appear to be univoltine, while the southernmost populations probably produce two broods annually. As of 2025 our records range from mid-March to early-November, with the flight season lasting longer in the Coastal Plain relative to those of the Piedmont and Blue Ridge.

HABITAT: Many of our records are in floodplains or other habitats with wetlands.

FOOD: As of 2025, we are not aware of any documentation of the host plants.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S3S4]

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

COMMENTS: