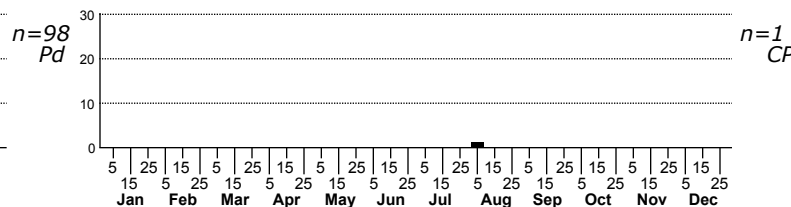
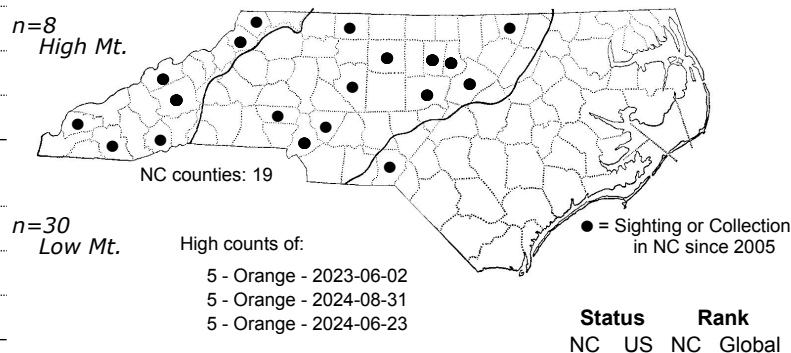
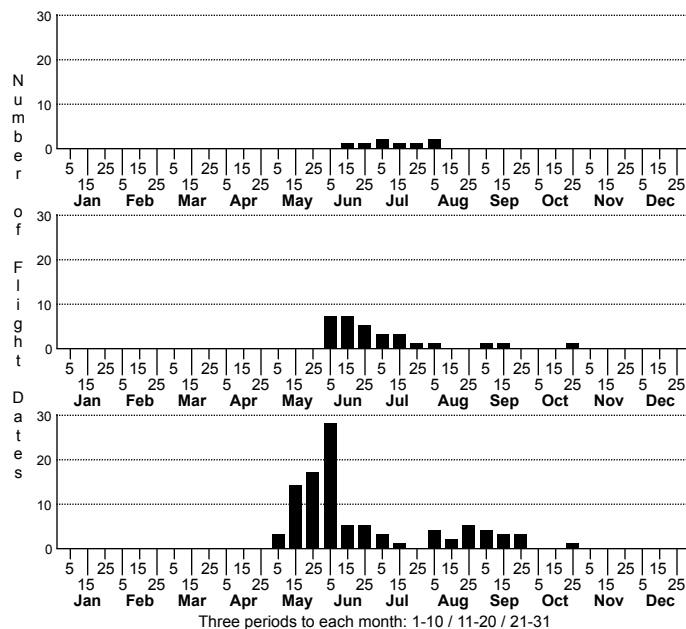


Taygete attributella Triangle-marked Twirler



FAMILY: Gelechiidae SUBFAMILY: Symmocinae TRIBE:

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: Taygete is a small genus 18 species that are mostly found in the neotropics and the western and southwestern US.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Leckie and Beadle (2018)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1923)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The following is based primarily on the descriptions by Chambers (1872) and Forbes (1923). The head and thorax are fuscous and rather heavily scaled, while the antenna are dark brown, rather stout, and slightly more than half the length of the forewing. The labial palp has two slender black annuli on the terminal joint. The forewing ground color is pearly white to dirty white with dark brown marks. These include a large costal spot at the wing base, a second large costal spot just beyond one-half, and a smaller one between these two. In addition, there are two or three less intense dots closer to the inner margin and between second costal mark and the PM area. These and the second costal mark are often partially margined with light tan scales. The apex is lightly spotted with fuscous, and the cilia are pale fuscous. The hindwing and fringe are grayish brown. The legs are dark brown to blackish above with a few narrow whitish annuli. *Taygete gallaegenitella* is similar but has a different spot pattern along the costa.

DISTRIBUTION: *Taygete attributella* is found in eastern North America from the New England states and adjoining areas of southern Canada (Ontario; Quebec southward to northern Florida and the Gulf States, and westward to central Texas, Oklahoma, Illinois, and Minnesota. A few scattered records are from farther west in Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, and southern California. Populations are absent or rare in much of the Atlantic Coastal Plain from Virginia to Georgia. As of 2024, nearly all of our records are from the Piedmont and lower elevations in the mountains, with a few records from higher elevations and a single record from the Sandhills.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Adults have been documented from March through October in areas outside of North Carolina, with a seasonal peak in June and July. As of 2021, we have records from early May through late October. North Carolina populations appear to be bivoltine, with the first brood in May and June and a second during the summer.

HABITAT: The preferred habitats are poorly documented. Most of our records are from semi-wooded residential neighborhoods.

FOOD: The host species are undocumented.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S3S5]

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

COMMENTS: