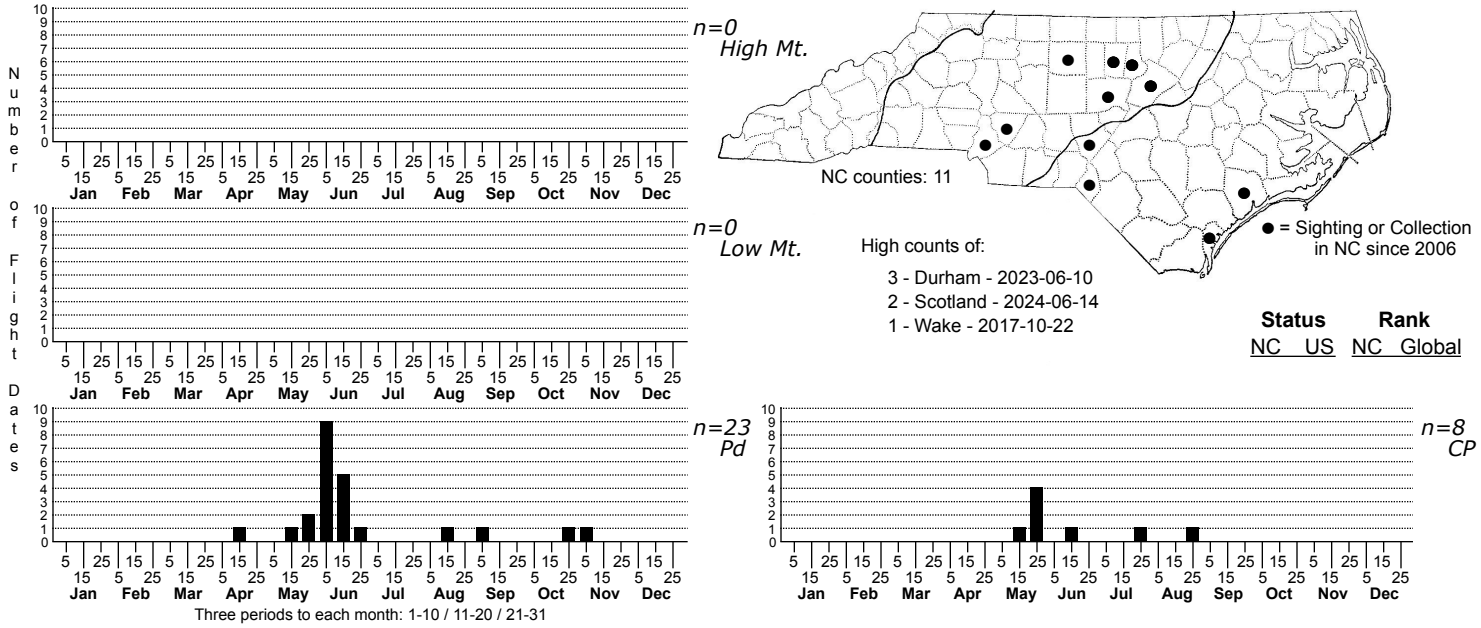
Taygete gallaegenitella Southern Taygete



FAMILY: Gelechiidae SUBFAMILY: Symmocinae TRIBE:
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:
ONLINE PHOTOS:
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The antenna is dull white with darker annulations, and slightly more than one-half the wing length. The labial palps are also dull white and lacks annuli. The forewing is brownish white with three dark brown to blackish costal marks. The first is a narrow irregular streak that extends along the costa from the base before narrowing and ending at about one-fourth. The second is a costal blotch at one-half the wing length, and the third is a costal blotch at about three-fourths that is usually smaller than the first blotch. Faint small blotches are sometimes evident more inwardly. The cilia are similar in color to the ground and often marked with darker dusting. Taygete attributella is similar but has a different spot pattern along the costa.

DISTRIBUTION: Taygete gallaegenitella is found in the southeastern US from North Carolina southward to Florida, and westward to eastern Texas, Arkansas, and Tennessee. As of 2021, all of our records are from the Coastal Plain and Piedmont.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Adult records from areas outside of North Carolina are from April through October. As of 2024, we have records from April through early November, but with the majority coming from May and June.

HABITAT: The preferred habitat is poorly documented. Most of our records are from semi-wooded residential areas.

FOOD: The hosts are poorly documented, but may include wasp galls on oaks (Robinson et al., 2023).

OBSERVATION_METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR SU

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

COMMENTS: We currently do not have sufficient information of the distribution and abundance of this species to assess its conservation status.