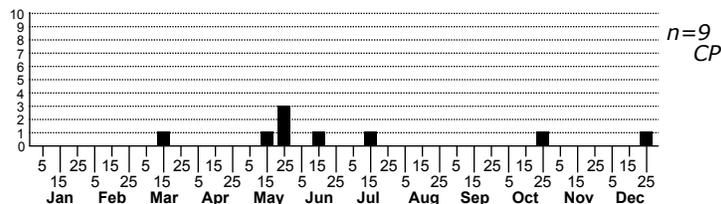
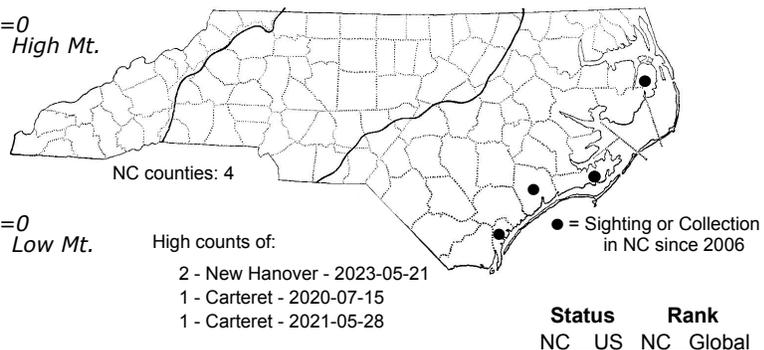


Telphusa perspicua None



FAMILY: Gelechiidae SUBFAMILY: Gelechiinae TRIBE:
 TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Walsingham (1897)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The following description is based in part on the original description by Walsingham (1897). The antenna has a very long and slender basal joint, and is dark-brown and faintly annulated with dull-white. The labial palp is very long, recurved, and slender, and terminates near the back of the head. The terminal segment is about as long or longer than the pale-colored second segment, and is predominantly brown with some whitish-ocherous mottling. The head is pale-gray and the thorax dark-brown with lighter, fine speckling. The forewing ground color is dark-brown with lighter speckling or fine mottling, and often has patches of iridescent-green reflections. The most prominent mark is a wide, blackish, outwardly-oblique basal band that extends from the costa to the inner margin, and is margined mostly outwardly by a thin line of white scales. The middle of the wing has a wide, blackish, semi-lunate blotch with a lighter center that begins on the costa before one-half the wing length, then curves outwardly to the center of the wing before curving back to the costa at around three-fifths the wing length. This is commonly followed by one or two irregularly-shaped blackish blotches on the apical fourth of the wing that are sometimes weakly connected to the central blotch. Fresh specimens have four to five dorsal scale tufts on the thorax and below the inner margin that vary from dull-white or pale to dark-brown with associated white scale patches. The legs are mostly blackish with annulations on the ends of the tarsal segments, while the hindwing is brown to dark-gray, with a broad, whitish region inwardly on the basal two-thirds.

The wing pattern is variable, with the wide basal band being most consistent, so expect deviations from the general description above.

DISTRIBUTION: *Telphusa perspicua* is restricted to the southeastern Coastal Plain where it occurs from south-central Texas eastward across the Gulf Coast states to northern and central Florida, then northward to North Carolina. As of 2025, we have scattered records that are all from habitats near the coast.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been observed during every month of the year and presumably produce several broods per year in most areas of the range. As of 2025, our fragmented records extend from mid-March through late-December.

HABITAT: As of 2025, our records are mostly from maritime forests and coastal dunes and scrub habitats.

FOOD: The host plants are apparently unknown.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S2S3]

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: This species appears to reach its northern limit in North Carolina, where we have only a few scattered records as of