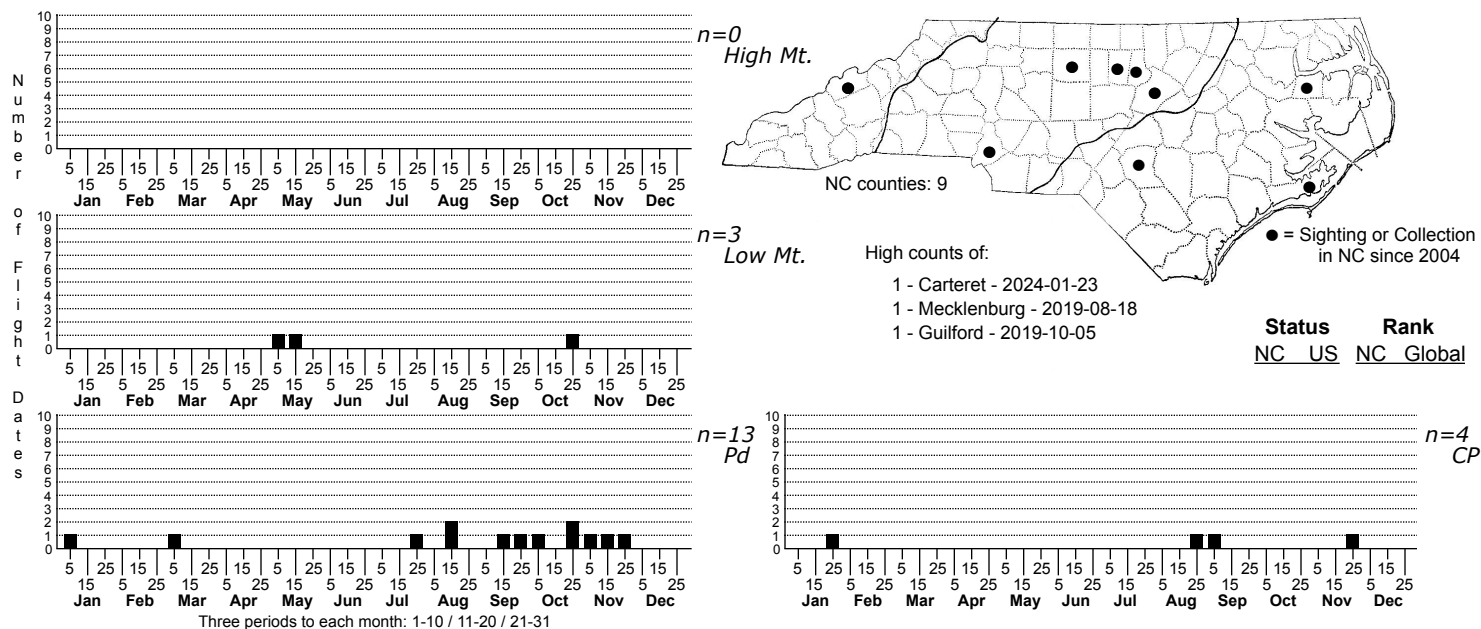


Symmetrischema striatella Streaked Twirler



FAMILY: Gelechiidae SUBFAMILY: Gelechiinae TRIBE: Gnorimoschemini
 TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Leckie and Beadle (1018)
 ONLINE PHOTOS:
 TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: (Murtfeldt, 1900)
 TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: (Murtfeldt, 1900)

ID COMMENTS: The following is based on the description by (Murtfeldt, 1900). The antenna is about three-fourths the wing length and pale with dark brown annulations. The second and third joints of the labial palp are about equal. The second joint is pale buff, and densely tufted with two darker annulations. The third joint is pale buff and largely unmarked. The head and thorax are pale buff and faintly striped with leaden gray. The forewing has rather complex patterning, with a ground that has a mixture of pale buff and reddish brown coloration, along with black dusting. The pale coloration is most prevalent along the costa, and is organized as a set of light striations elsewhere in the wing. The most prominent mark is a subcostal blackish, longitudinal line that extends from the base to the apex. Two or more finer, blackish striations or dashes are present between this and the dorsal margin. The hindwing is ashy gray and often shades to cinereous at the tip. The male has a pencil of spreading hairs from the base of the costa. The cilia are long, fine, and concolorous with the wing, and those on the forewing are crossed with a blackish line. The legs are shining pale buff, and more or less conspicuously mottled with leaden gray. The hind tibia has long siiken hairs, and the tarsi are blackish with pale annulations.

DISTRIBUTION: *Symmetrischema striatella* is found in Cuba, Puerto Rico, and North America, including California and the eastern US. In the East, the range extends from Maine to Florida, and westward to central Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, and Illinois. Populations appear to be rare or uncommon throughout most of the Appalachian region. As of 2024, all but one of our records are all from the Coastal Plain and Piedmont.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Populations appear to have two or more broods in the southern portions of the range, and as few as one farther north. Adults have been found during all months of the year. As of 2024, our records are mostly from early-May through late-November, with two January and early-March records that likely reflects overwintering adults.

HABITAT: Eastern Black Nightshade is probably the most commonly used host in North Carolina. It grows in sunny or partially shaded habitats that are often disturbed. Examples include woodland borders, powerline corridors, infrequently mowed roadsides, and weedy fields.

FOOD: The larvae feed internally on the berries of nightshades (Robinson et al., 2010). Species that are used include American Black Nightshade (*Solanum americanum*) and European Black Nightshade (*S. nigrum*), as well as other nightshades that are found in California, Cuba, and Puerto Rico. Records for specimens labelled as *S. nigrum* are now thought to include several closely related forms, including Glowing Nightshade (*S. pseudogracile*), Eastern Black Nightshade (*S. ptycanthum*) and Hairy Nightshade (*S. sarrachoides*; LeGrand et al., 2021).

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights and the larvae can be found on nightshade fruits.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S2S3]

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

COMMENTS: As of 2024, we have < 10 site records for the state. We need more information on the distribution and abundance of this species before we can assess its conservation status.