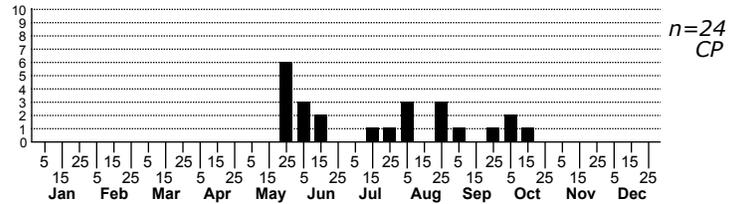
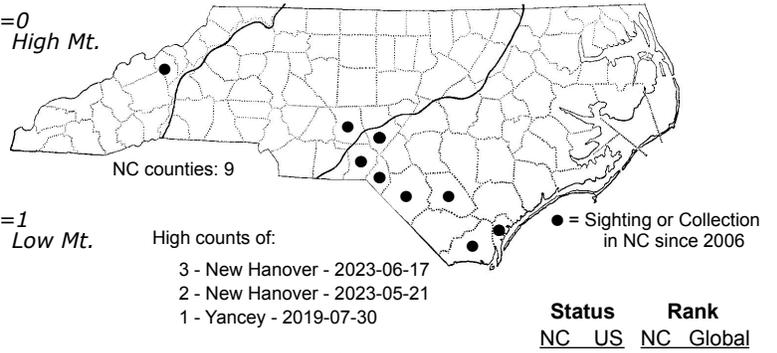
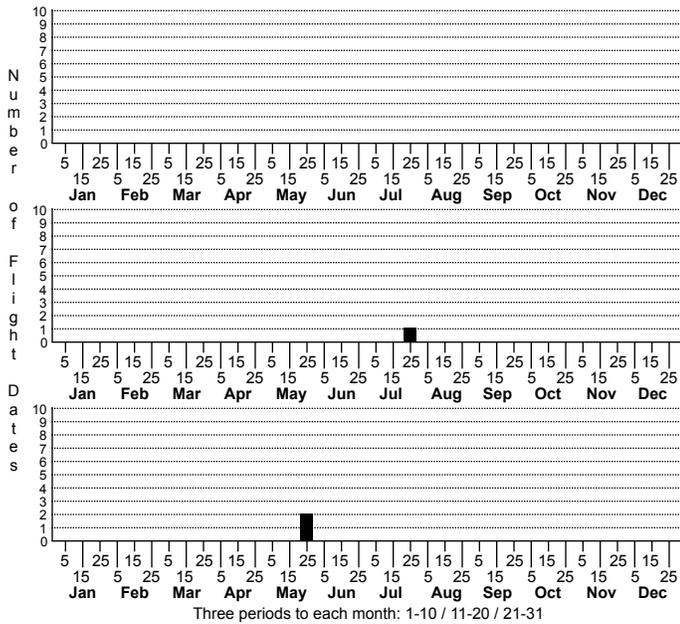


*Aroga compositella* Six-spotted Aroga



FAMILY: Gelechiidae SUBFAMILY: Gelechiinae TRIBE: Gelechiini  
 TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Busck (1903a)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: *Aroga compositella* is easy to identify based on the forewing markings. In this species the labial palp has a well-developed white brush on the second segment, while the third segment is black with a white tip. The antenna is black and the face white. The head, thorax and ground color of the forewing are bronzy-black, with the latter having four large white marks. These include an outwardly oblique, white, costal streak near the base that extends just beyond the center of the wing, a nearly elliptical white spot on the middle of the wing, a triangular white costal spot at around four-fifths the wing length, and a smaller dorsal white spot that is opposite it on the inner margin. Most specimens also have a tiny white dot just basal to and inward from the middle spot, and a series of 4-5 small white dots on the outer margin that extend around the apex. The fringe and hindwing are smoky brown, and the outer portions of the legs are black with contrasting white bands.

*Aroga compositella* can be confused with *Fascista bimaculella*, but the latter has a white head, and has the costal and dorsal spots at four-fifths united to form a complete fascia.

DISTRIBUTION: *Aroga compositella* is most common in the southeastern US, with the range extending from eastern Texas and eastern Oklahoma eastward to Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina. It is also found as a possible disjunct group from Maryland to New Hampshire and Maine, and mostly along coastal regions. Isolated records are also known from Wisconsin and Colorado. As of 2025, our records are all from the southern Coastal Plain, with one unusual record from Mt. Mitchell.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults fly year-round in the southernmost areas of the range such as Florida and Alabama, and mostly from March through October farther north, with the northernmost populations in Massachusetts and Maine having a relatively brief flight period from May through August. As of 2025, our records extend from late-May to mid-October, with local populations likely producing two or three broods per year in the Coastal Plain.

HABITAT: Except for a single enigmatic record from Mt. Mitchell, all of our records are from xeric communities in the Sandhills and along the coast.

FOOD: As of 2025, we are unaware of any records for the host plants.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

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: This species appears to be uncommon and restricted to xeric communities in the southern Coastal Plain.