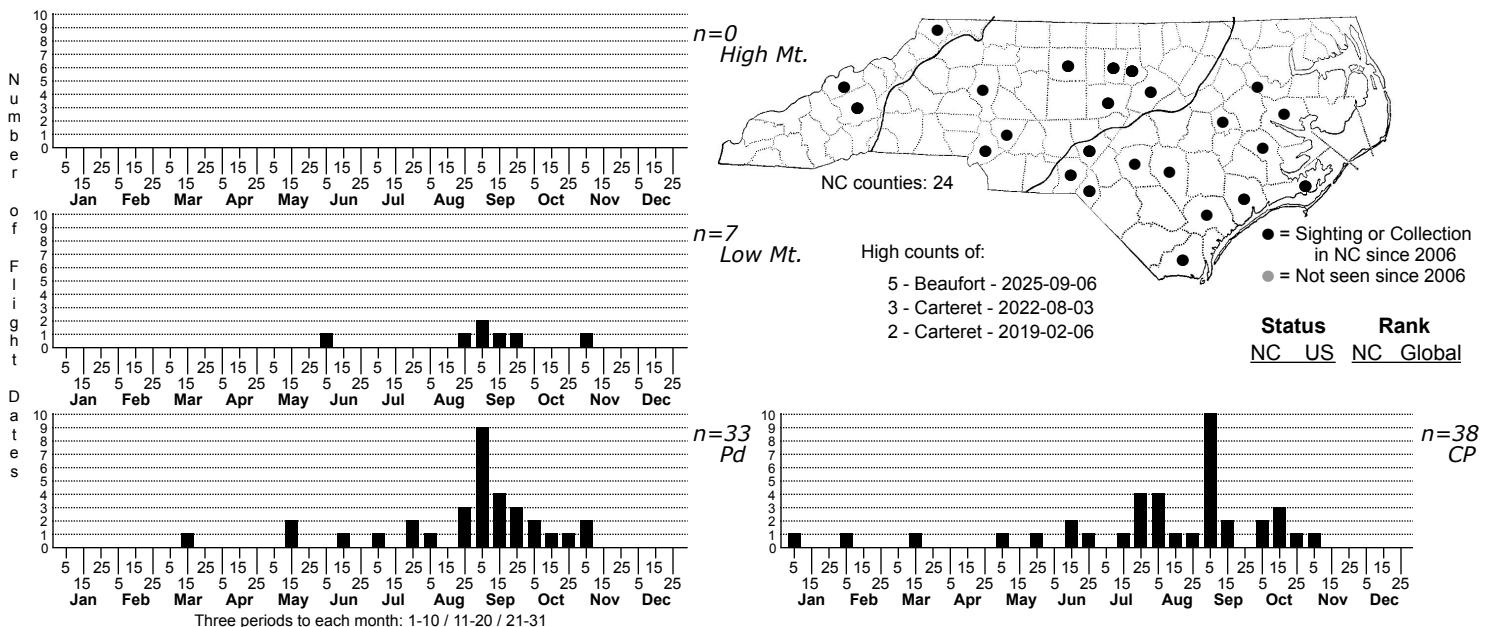


## *Stegasta bosqueella* Red-necked Peanutworm Moth



FAMILY: Gelechiidae SUBFAMILY: Gelechiinae TRIBE: Gelechiini  
TAXONOMIC COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Manley (1961)

ID COMMENTS: This is a distinctively marked dark moth with a bold orange mark on the forewing and a well-defined sub-apical costal spot. The following description is based on the original description by Chambers (1985). The head is yellowish white, while the antenna is dark brown with the extreme tip of the basal joint white. The labial palp is dark brown, with a yellowish white annulus around the middle and tip of the second and third joints. The thorax and ground color of the forewing are brown. The forewing has a broad fascia at about the basal fourth that passes from the costa across the wing. It eventually fuses with a broad, pale orange longitudinal band that extends along the dorsal margin towards the cilia. The fascia varies from whitish to being concolorous with the longitudinal band. The band is widest basally, then narrows near the middle before widening again apically. A faint, white costal spot is present at about one-half the wing length, and a larger one at about four-fifths and just before the cilia. The cilia are blackish, and the hindwing light gray to grayish brown. The abdomen is blackish and the legs brown with pale yellowish annulations.

DISTRIBUTION: *< i>Stegasta bosqueella</i>* is rather widely distributed across much of eastern North America, then westward to Colorado and Arizona, and southward to Central America, the Caribbean region, northern South America, and Brazil. Populations have been introduced into several areas of the Old World where peanuts are grown. This species appears to occur essentially statewide in North Carolina, from coastal regions to the lower elevations in the Blue Ridge.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Adults have been found during all months of the year. Most records for areas outside of North Carolina are from April through October. As of 2021, our records extend from January through early November, with the majority from July through October.

HABITAT: Common Partridge-pea and other native plants that serve as hosts are usually found in relatively open habitats. Typical habitats include open woods, power line corridors, roadsides, and infrequently mowed meadows.

FOOD: North American populations reportedly feed on several genera of legumes, including the domesticated peanut (*< i>Arachis hypogaea</i>*), Common Partridge-pea (*< i>Chamaecrista fasciculata</i>*), Summer Farewell (*< i>Dalea pinnata</i>*), Alfalfa (*< i>Medicago sativa</i>*), pencil-flower (*< i>Stylosanthes</i>*), and a species of *< i>Zornia</i>* (Forbes, 1923; Heppner, 2007; Robinson et al., 2010).

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights and the larvae are often abundant in fields of peanuts.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S4S5

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

COMMENTS: This species is seemingly secure, particularly given that it can become a pest in cultivated fields.