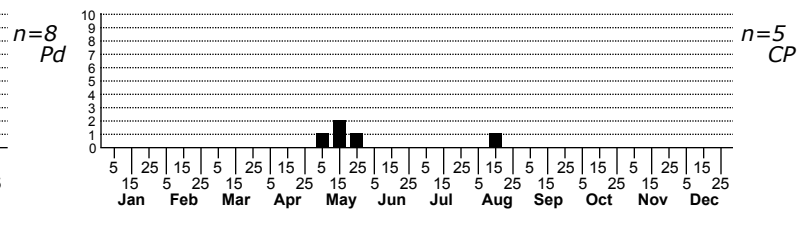
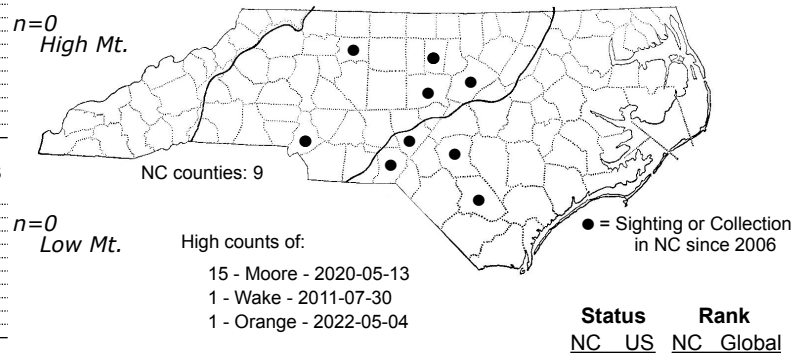
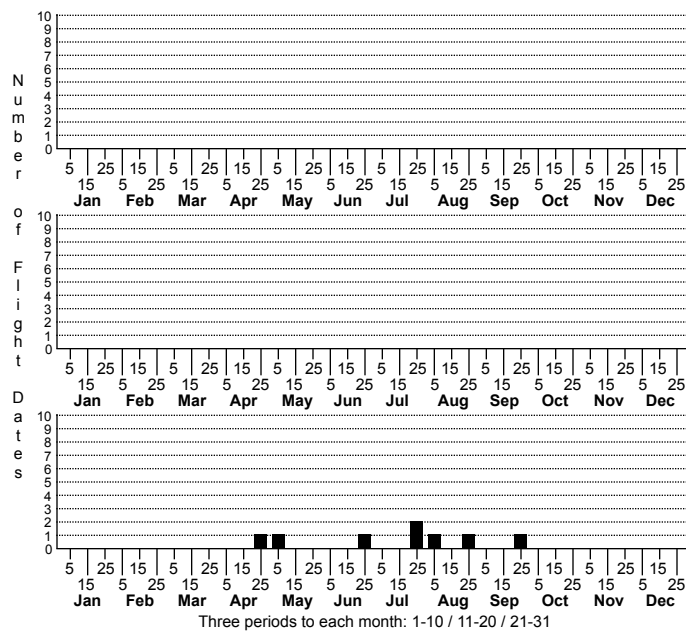


Battaristis concinnusella Music-loving Moth



FAMILY: Gelechiidae SUBFAMILY: Anacampsinæ TRIBE:

TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: The genus *Battaristis* contains 31 described species that are mostly found in the New World. Most species are found in South America, and only five are currently recognized in North America.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Chambers (1877); Forbes (1923)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: This is a small, dull grayish to grayish brown moth with a faint, postmedian light line and a black apical spot. The following description is based on that of Chambers (1877) and Forbes (1923). The labial palp is strongly recurved and extends to the thorax. The second joint of the labial palp is brush-like, while the third segment is conspicuously narrower. This species has an overall dull gray to grayish-brown appearance, with the head, thorax, palps, and most of the forewing being dull gray to grayish brown. The antenna is darker than the general body coloration. The forewing has a dull gray to grayish brown ground color that is sprinkled with lighter, grayish-white scales that are more concentrated in the subapical region. A thin and rather faint postmedian line is present at about three-fourths the wing length. It is white to grayish-white, straight, posteriorly oblique, and fades out before reaching the middle of the wing in the subapical region. An opposing and even fainter dorsal line is usually evident that converges towards the apex of the costal line. The costa has a very short dark-brown to blackish streak at about one-half the wing length that is followed by a whitish streak, then another dark streak just before the postmedian line. A larger dark-brown to blackish blotch is usually evident immediately behind the costal line. The apex is heavily dusted with grayish-white scales and has a conspicuous black spot below it. The cilia are dark brown to blackish with a well-defined white marginal line near the middle that is margined anteriorly with darker scales.

This species is similar to *Battaristis nigratomella*, but tends to be darker overall, with the wing ground color either uniform in the basal half or only weakly two-toned. In *B. nigratomella*, the costal one-third of the wing on the basal half is lighter than the dorsal two-thirds. *Battaristis concinnusella* also tends to have the apical third of the wing more heavily speckled or dusted with whitish or light silvery gray scales relative to *B. nigratomella*. The postmedian costal line at about three-fourths is faint in this species relative to that of *B. nigratomella*.

DISTRIBUTION: As currently recognized, specimens conforming to the description of *B. concinnusella* have been found in southern Canada (British Columbia; Alberta; Ontario; Quebec) and in many areas of the United States, including California, Montana, Colorado, Utah, and Arizona. In the East, the range extends from New York and vicinity southward to South Carolina and westward to Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, and Wisconsin. As of 2023, we only have records from the Piedmont and Coastal Plain.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Adults have been documented from April through October in areas outside of North Carolina, with peak activity from May through August. As of 2023, our few records range from early May through late August.

HABITAT: The habitat preferences are poorly documented, and include wooded residential neighborhoods and a hardwood forest.

FOOD: The USDA Plants Database lists goldenrod (*Solidago*) as a host, but we are uncertain of the source of this information.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

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 on the distribution and abundance of this species to assess its conservation status.