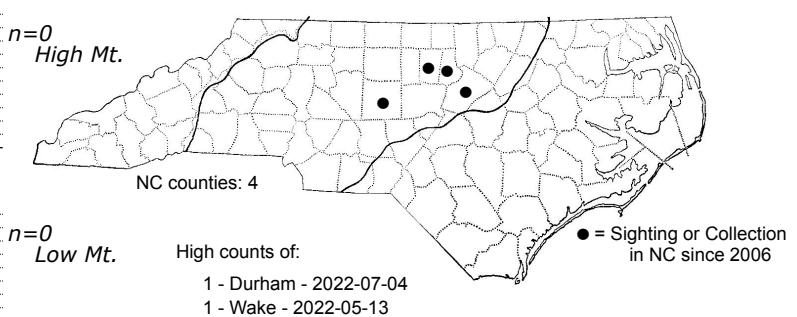
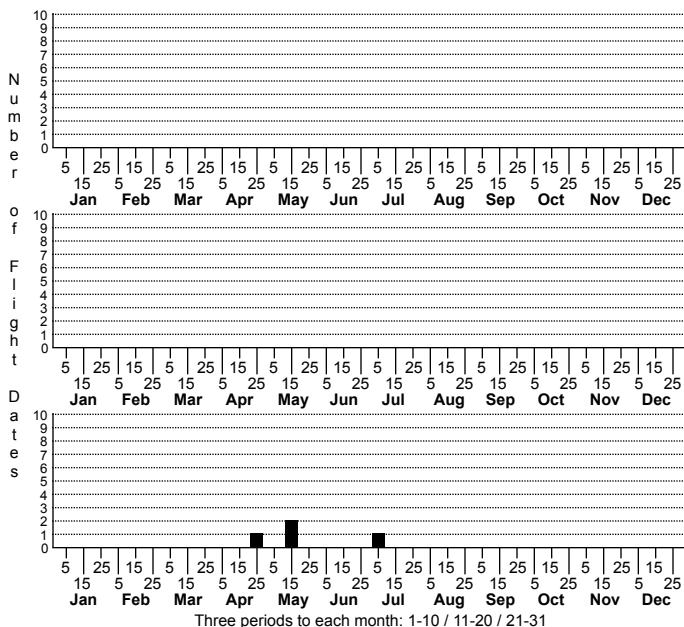


Strobisia proserpinella Tragic Goddess



FAMILY: Gelechiidae SUBFAMILY: Anacampsinae TRIBE: Anacampsini
TAXONOMIC COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: *< i>Strobisia proserpinella</i>* is a strikingly marked small moth with a shiny, deep-brown forewing that is marked with bright iridescent blue lines and spots. Specimens typically have four lines that begin on or near the costa (Forbes, 1923). The first three are posteriorly oblique lines that begin at around one-fifth, two-fifths, and three-fifths the wing length from the base and are roughly parallel to one another. The first is curved backwards and terminates beyond the center of the wing, while the second and third are relatively straight and shorter, with the middle line the shortest of the three. The fourth is at around four-fifths the wing length, very short and projects anteriorly. The inner margin has a single short line between the second and third costal line that projects slightly anteriorly. In addition to the major lines, specimens often have a cluster of iridescent blue or purplish scales in the subterminal area near the tornus. The terminal fringe is silvery-gray with a gray basal band. The antenna has alternating off-white and dark-brown annulations, and the labial palp is long, recurved and finely-tapered.

< i>Strobisia iridipennella</i> closely resembles *< i>S. proserpinella</i>*, but the first costal line is much shorter on *< i>S. iridipennella</i>*, spots are present below the inner margin, and the short blue line that projects inward from the inner margin between the second and third costal lines is missing.

DISTRIBUTION: *< i>Strobisia proserpinella</i>* is restricted to the eastern US and has mid-western and southern affinities. The range extends from Illinois, southern Iowa and eastern Nebraska, southward to Missouri, eastern Kansas, eastern Oklahoma and eastern Texas, then eastward through Tennessee, Arkansas, and Louisiana to Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina. As of 2025, our records are all from a cluster of sites in the east-central Piedmont.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been observed from March through September in different areas of the range. As of 2025, our records are from late-April through early-July.

HABITAT: Although the preferred habitats are poorly documented, this species appears to have affinities with prairies and grasslands. As of 2025, the few records that we have are mostly from fragmented landscapes in the Piedmont.

FOOD: The host plants are undocumented.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights and are commonly found perched on vegetation during the day where they often engage in rapid, circular, dancing movements.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS:

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: