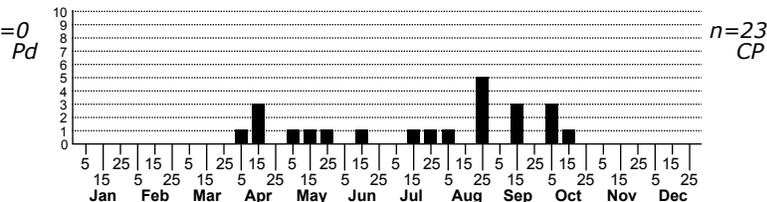
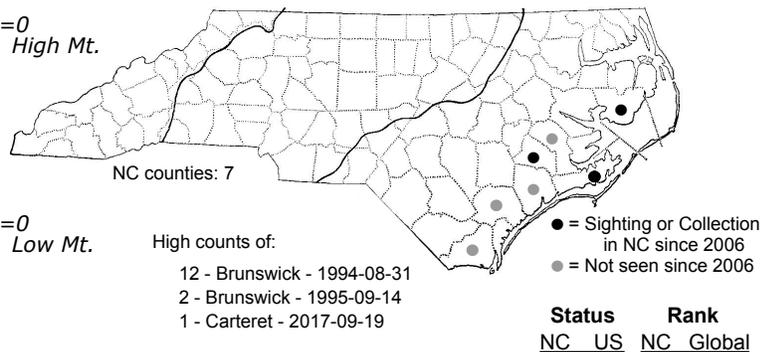


Cryptaspasma bipenicilla White-dotted Cryptaspasma



FAMILY: Tortricidae SUBFAMILY: Olethreutinae TRIBE: Microcorsini
 TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Brown and Brown (2004)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: *Cryptaspasma bipenicilla* is a mostly grayish-brown to brownish-gray moth, with a forewing that has a conspicuous white dot on the distal half of the forewing, and three rather vague, highly irregular, blackish transverse bands near the base, middle and end of the wing. The following description is based in part on that of Brown and Brown (1994). The frons is brown, while the labial palp is dark-brown, short and blunt. The brownish vertex is short and does not extend much above the eyes. The thorax is also brown and bordered on each side by a tegula that is brown with an orangish outer half.

The forewing ground is brown with scattered orange and pale-brown scales that produce a weakly striated or reticulated pattern. There are three rather vague, highly irregular, blackish transverse bands near the wing base, in the middle, and in the subterminal region that are variably expressed. The middle band is the most prominent, and often only expressed on the dorsal half. A small but conspicuous white dot that is often bordered with a few orange scales is present below the costa at around three-fifths the wing length from the base. The costa is lined with single or paired, short, pale-colored strigulae that are separated by dark-brown areas in between. The outer fringe is dark grayish-brown, and the hindwing varies from pale grayish-brown to creamy-gray. The foreleg has a large, conspicuous brush of scales on the anterior surface of the femur, and long scales on the ventral surface of the tibia. The midleg has long scales on the ventral surface of the femur and tibia, while the hindleg has long scales on the ventral surface of the femur, and the dorsal and ventral surfaces of the tibia.

DISTRIBUTION: *Cryptaspasma bipenicilla* is found in the southeastern Coastal Plain from southeastern Texas eastward to southern Florida, and northward to North Carolina. Scattered records are also known from Caribbean islands, including Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Puerto Rico. Brown and Brown (2004) surmised that this is a Caribbean species that may have expanded its range in the US since the early 1960's; however, they consider it to be native. As of 2025, all of our records are from the lower Coastal Plain.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults fly year-round in Florida and Alabama, but are not active during the winter months elsewhere. As of 2025, our records extend from early-April to mid-October. Populations in North Carolina appear to produce two broods annually.

HABITAT: Many of our records are from pocosins or other wetland sites that support red bays, which are the likely hosts.

FOOD: As of 2025, the hosts in the US are undocumented. This species has been recorded feeding on the seeds of Avocado (*Persea americana*) and the fruits of Slugwood (*Beilschmiedia pendula*) in Puerto Rico and Cuba. Potential hosts in the southeastern United States include Upland Redbay (*Persea borbonia* [= *Tamala borbonia*]) and Swamp Redbay (*Persea palustris* [= *Tamala palustris*]). (Austin et al., 2025).

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights. Information is needed on host use and we encourage naturalist to search redbay fruits for larvae.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: [GNR] S1S2

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

COMMENTS: This species reaches the northern limit of its range in North Carolina where it appears to be rare. As of 2025, we have only eight site records for the state.