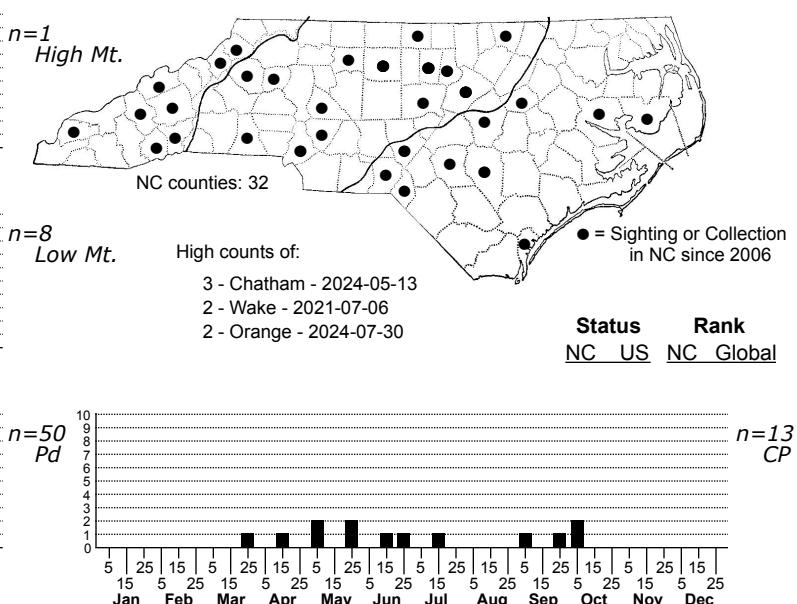
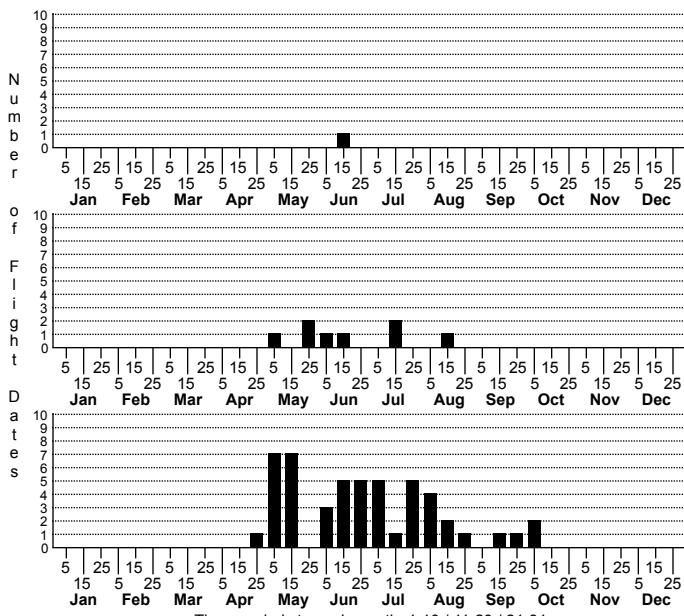


# *Celypha cespitana* of authors Celypha Moth



FAMILY: Tortricidae SUBFAMILY: Olethreutinae TRIBE: Olethreutini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: *Celypha cespitana* has historically been treated as a single species that is found in both North America and Eurasia, but DNA evidence suggests that the North American populations constitute a separate species (Gilligan et al., 2020). Gilligan and Brown (in Pohl and Nanz, 2023) proposed the placeholder name "Celypha cespitana of authors; (not Hübner, [1817])" for the North American populations. There is currently some confusion about the correct name to apply to the North American group, and many internet sites continue to refer to the North American populations as simply *Celypha cespitana* (see MPG for details).

## FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

### ONLINE PHOTOS:

### TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

### TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: *Celypha cespitana* is a geographically variable species, which is not surprising given its extensive geographic range. Specimens in North Carolina are drab-colored with an overall dull-brownish appearance. They have a single, well-defined, complete fascia on the forewing at around one-third the wing length, and an often incomplete and less well-defined fascia on the terminal third of the wing. The antemedial fascia is irregular on both sides and often has one to three parallel rows of darker, broken strigulae on a dull-white or light pale ground color. It is preceded by a basal region that is typically mottled with varying degrees of brownish, yellowish-brown, or blackish scale patches. The antemedial fascia is followed by a diffuse, irregular darker band of sorts that has varying levels of dark brown to blackish scaling that is intermixed with pale to yellowish-black scale patches. The terminal third often has a poorly defined fascia that is often a shade darker than the antemedial fascia. Most specimens have a dark apical spot and a post-medial bar that extends from near the tornus before terminating in the subcostal region at around four-fifths the wing length. However, these are often poorly expressed on North Carolina specimens. The costa is dark-brown to blackish with a series of paired whitish striae along the apical two-thirds of the wing, while the hindwing is brown with a somewhat lighter fringe that has a narrow basal line.

*Celypha cespitana* is somewhat similar to *Olethreutes fasciatana* and *Phiaris glaciana*, the latter two have white fasciae and well-defined basal and medial dark patches.

DISTRIBUTION: *Celypha cespitana* is widespread across much of southern Canada, the eastern US, and in the western US in areas with mesic habitats. The northern limit of the range includes portions of Alaska, the Yukon and Northwest Territories, and from British Columbia eastward across southern Canada to Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. The range in the US includes almost all of the eastern US westward to the Rocky Mountain states of Montana, Wyoming and Colorado. It also includes portions of the Pacific Northwest and California. This species occurs statewide in North Carolina, but is relatively uncommon in the Coastal Plain.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been observed from April through November in different areas of the range, with the peak season during the warmer months of the year. As of 2024, our records extend from late-March through early-October, with the flight period noticeably shorter in the Blue Ridge relative to the Piedmont and Coastal Plain.

HABITAT: Local populations can be found in a variety of habitats that include fields and meadows, road and power line corridors, semi-wooded residential neighborhoods, sandhill communities, and other open or fragmented habitats.

FOOD: Larvae are apparently polyphagous, with reported hosts including Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), strawberries (*Fragaria*), a juniper (*Juniperus*), Western larch (*Larix occidentalis*), Engelmann Spruce (*Picea engelmanni*), Balsam Poplar (*Populus balsamifera*), a broom grass (*Spartium* sp.), and Red Clover (*Trifolium pratense*) (Heinrich, 1926; Bennett, 1961; Prentice, 1965; Bradley et al. 1979; Miller, 1987; Robinson et al., 2010; Wehrle, 1929). We do not have any feeding records in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR SNR [S3S4]

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

COMMENTS: