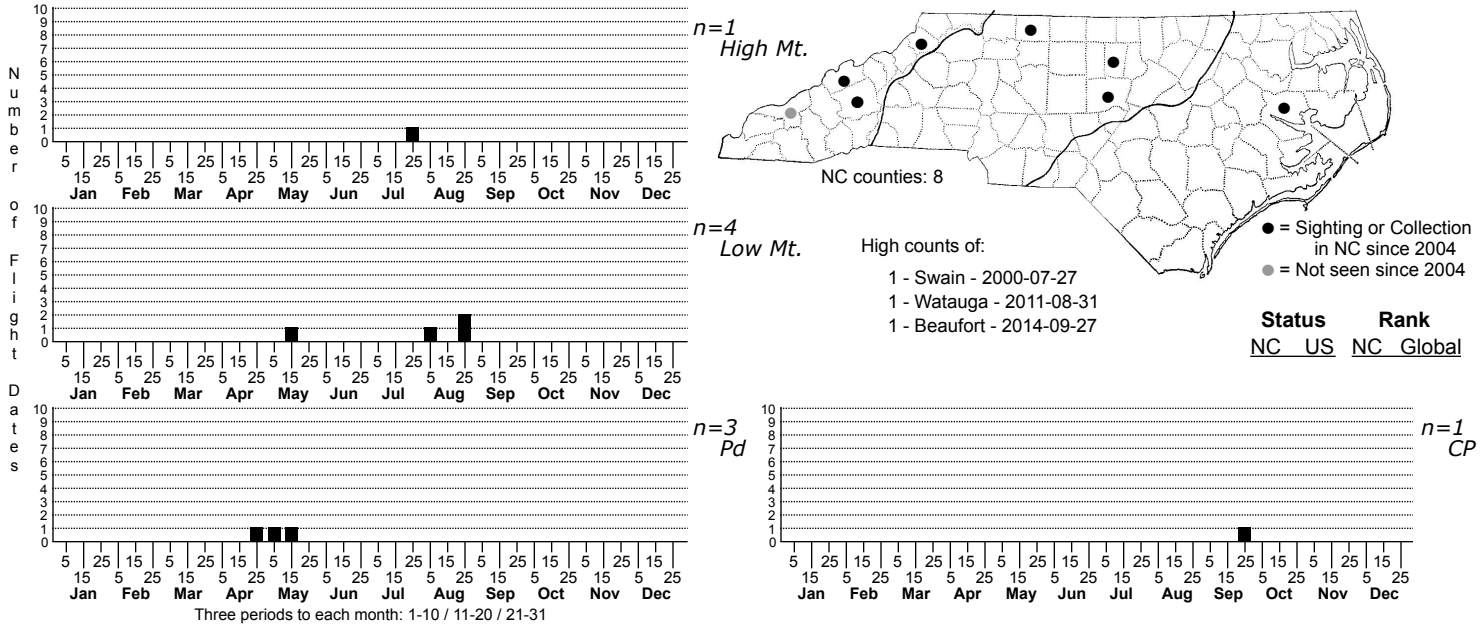
Homosetia costisignella No common name



FAMILY: Tineidae SUBFAMILY: Meessiinae TRIBE: [Meessiini]
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: Homosetia is a small genus with 12 recognized species that are found only in North America.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:
ONLINE PHOTOS:
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Dietz (1905)
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The following description is based primarily on that of Dietz (1905). The labial palp is dark fuscous and whitish at the apex. The head is sordid ocherous and intermixed with brown, while the antenna is dark fuscous above and paler beneath. The thorax and ground color of the forewing are reddish fulvous and dusted with varying levels of silvery whitish scales. The reddish ground is replaced on the apical third of the forewing by a series of loosely defined brownish black and whitish blotches that are best developed on the inner two-thirds. The costal margin has a series of alternating thin black longitudinal bars and whitish spots that extend from about one-fourth the wing length to the apex. These continue as a series of alternating black and whitish spots along the basal third of the fringe. A blackish brown scale tuft is present at the end of cell in unworn specimens. The hindwings is gray and darker towards the apex, and the cilia concolorous. The abdomen is fuscous brown above. The anterior and middle pair of the legs are dark brown externally, with the tarsal joints pale at the apex. The hindleg is paler than the other two.

DISTRIBUTION: Homosetia costisignella is found in eastern North America in extreme southern Canada (Quebec; Nova Scotia) and Maine southward to South Carolina, the southern Appalachians, and central Alabama. Farther north, the range extends westward to Illinois and Missouri. This species appears to occur statewide in North Carolina, with populations occurring from coastal areas to the higher elevations in the western mountains.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults are in flight in areas outside of North Carolina from April through September, with a peak in activity in June through August. As of 2020, our records extend from late April through late September.

HABITAT: The preferred habitat is unknown. Most of our records are from either semi-wooded residential neighborhoods or natural areas with deciduous forests. Forbes (1923) reported that this species prefers damp woods in New York.

FOOD: The larvae have never been reported, but presumably do not depend on specific plant hosts based on the fact that almost all tineids feed on either plant or animal remains, or fungi and lichens.

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 in North Carolina to assess its conservation status.