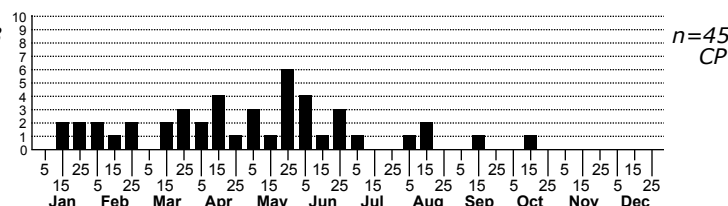
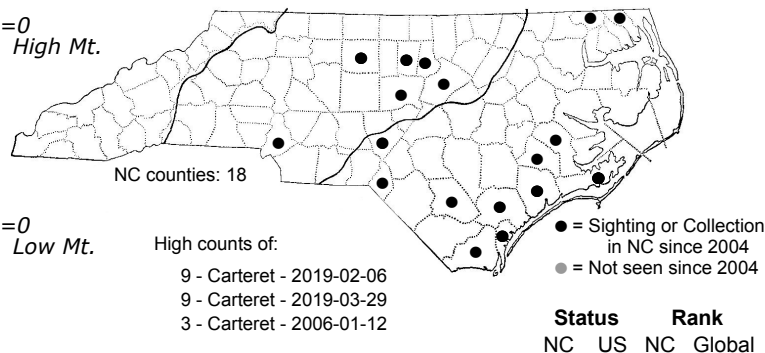
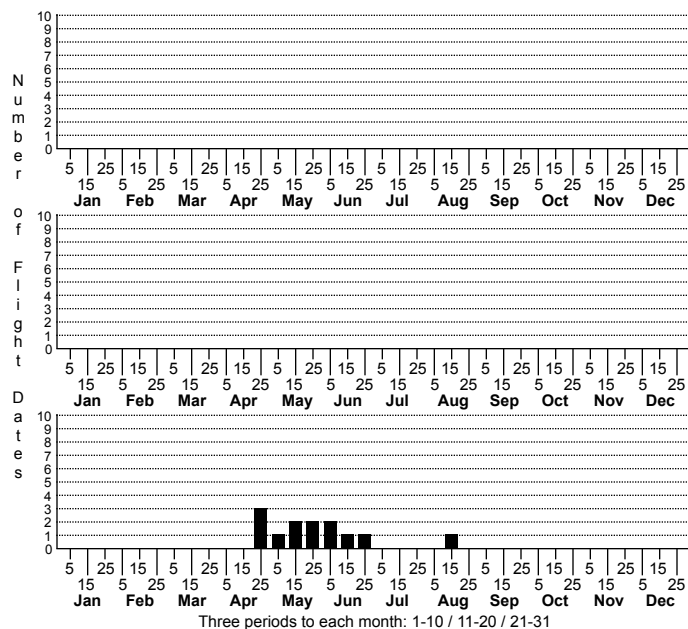


# *Strepsicrates smithiana* Bayberry Leaf-tier Moth



FAMILY: Tortricidae SUBFAMILY: Olethreutinae TRIBE: Eucosmini  
TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1923)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: McCay (1959)

ID COMMENTS: The following description is based in part of those by Walsingham (1891) and Forbes (1923). The antenna, palps, head, and thorax vary from cinereus to grayish brown. The thorax is smooth and the head has a set of short, raised scales above the eyes. The palp is scaled and has a prominent, short, porrect third joint. The forewing has a rounded outer margin and is variable in shading. The general tendency is for the costal two-thirds to be a shade of brown or cinereus-brown and the dorsal third a paler gray. The boundary with the gray region is wavy and more or less defined with black. The dorsal gray band is relatively narrow on the basal half, then constricts at about one-half and abruptly widens. The gray band often contrasts sharply with the blackish border, especially in the males. A heavy scale-tuft is present in the fold at one-third the way out. The cilia are brownish and the hindwing is mouse gray.

DISTRIBUTION: *Strepsicrates smithiana* is a wide-ranging species that is primarily associated with Coastal Plain habitats in the US and other inland areas where the host plants are present. The range extends from Maine southward to southern Florida, and westward along the Gulf States to eastern Texas, then northward through the Mississippi Embayment to western Tennessee. Isolates have been found as far north as Indiana, and natural populations are also found on several Caribbean islands. This species has likely been introduced in several areas of South America, particularly where guavas are grown commercially. As of 2022, our records are all from the Coastal Plain and eastern and central Piedmont.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Local populations typically have two or more broods per year depending on the latitude. As of 2022, our records extend from January through October in the Coastal Plain, and from April through June in the Piedmont.

HABITAT: Local populations in eastern North America are largely associated with bayberries and waxmyrtles. In North Carolina, this species is strongly dependent on these species. They most commonly are found in or near brackish and freshwater coastal wetlands, but also occur in more mesic settings in pine forests.

FOOD: The larvae feed on *Morella* species (Brown et al., 2008; Heinrich, 1923), including Southern Bayberry (*M. carolinensis*), Common Waxmyrtle (*M. cerifera*), and Northern Bayberry (*M. pensylvanica*). In Florida and the Caribbean other taxa with subtropical affinities are often used, including Spanish Stopper (*Eugenia foetida*), Common Guava (*Psidium guajava*) and Strawberry Guava (*P. littorale*) that are all members of the Myrtaceae (Heppner, 2003).

OBSERVATION\_METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S3S4

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

COMMENTS: