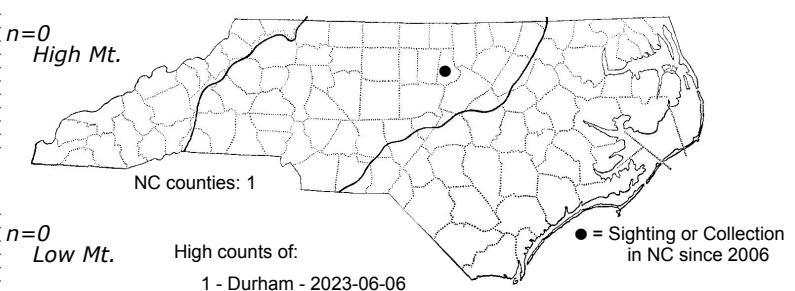
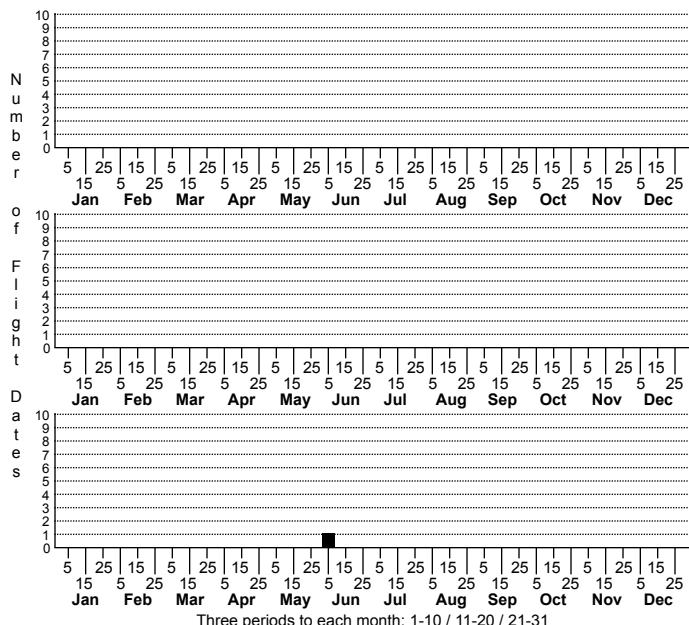


Diataga leptosceles None



Status	Rank		
NC	US	NC	Global

n=0
CP

FAMILY: Tineidae SUBFAMILY: Scardiinae TRIBE:

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: This is a small genus of moths with only seven described species that mostly occur in South America. <i>Diataga leptosceles</i> is the only member that occurs in North America.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Walsingham (1914)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: In this species the palps, head tuft and thorax are all dirty white and contrast sharply with the dark brown to blackish forewings. The antenna is brown above with a prominent white base, and is about one-half the length of the forewing. The forewing is finely mottled with dark gray, dark brown and blackish scales, except for the costa that has a series of alternating white and black bars along its length. The most prominent black bar occurs at around three-fourths the costal length, while less prominent and shorter bars are present at the base of the costa, at around two-fifths the costal length, and just before the apex. The legs are dirty white above, while the hindwing is slightly lighter than the forewing and unmarked.

DISTRIBUTION: <i>Diataga leptosceles</i> is largely restricted to the southeastern US, with scattered records extending from Illinois, Kentucky, West Virginia and Virginia southward to North Carolina, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and eastern Texas. As of 2024, we have a single record that is from Durham County in the Piedmont.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adult have been observed from April through September in different areas of the range, with a seasonal peak from June through August. As of 2024, our only record is from early June.

HABITAT: The preferred habitats are poorly documented.

FOOD: Larvae reportedly feed on fungi, but there are few details about their life history (Powell & Opler, 2009).

OBSERVATION METHODS: This appears to be a rare or uncommon species throughout its range, perhaps because it is not strongly attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR[S1S3]

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: This species appears to be rare within the state, with only a single record as of 2024. More information is needed on its life history and habitat requirements before we can assess its conservation status.