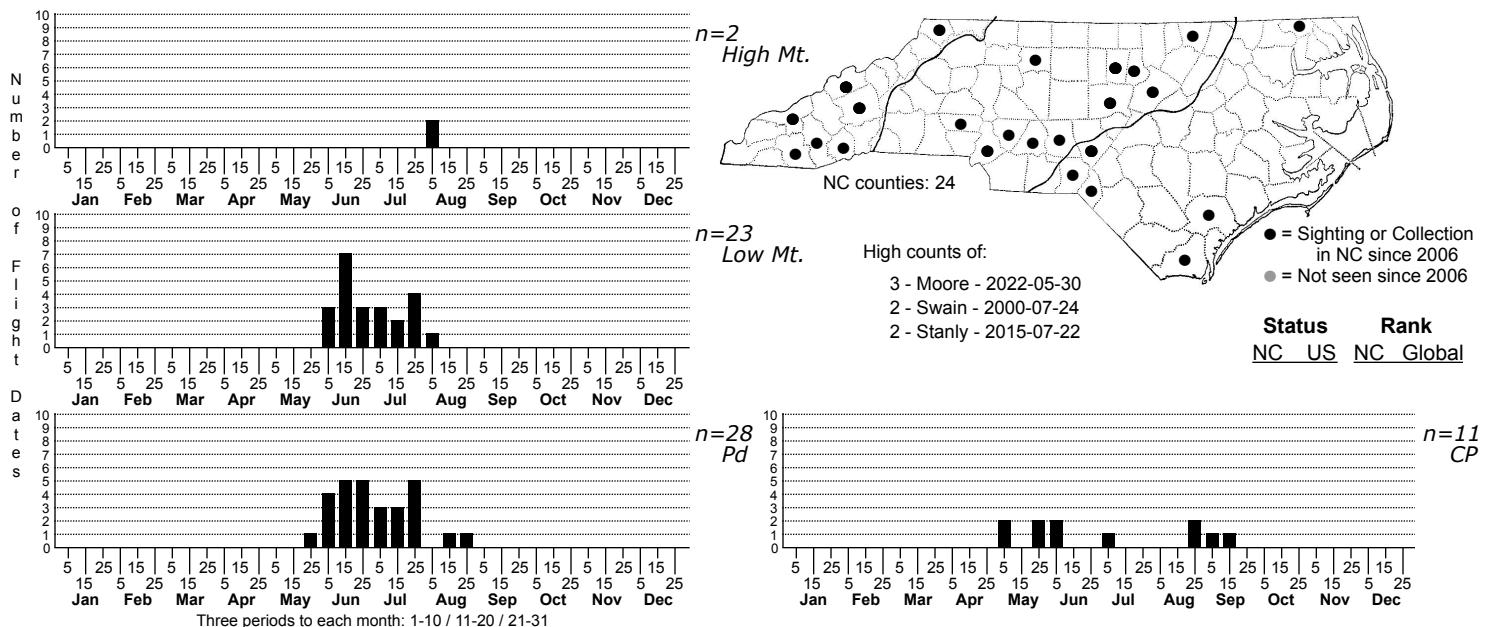


Kearfottia albifasciella White-patched Kearfottia



FAMILY: Tineidae SUBFAMILY: Tineidae-unplaced TRIBE: [Tineidae-unplaced]

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: *Kearfottia* is a monotypic genus that has been placed in both the family Tineidae and Psychidae by different experts.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: (Leckie and Beadle, 2018)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1923)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: This is an easily recognizable species. The basal and apical thirds of the forewing are deep brown and contrast sharply with the middle third, which is cream white to white and wavy on the posterior margin. The head, thorax, and antenna are also deep brown, and the antenna is slightly less than half the length of the forewing. There are usually several dark spots along the costa and two or three along the dorsal margin of the cream-colored band. The legs are dark above on the proximal half, with light and dark banding on the tarsi.

DISTRIBUTION: *Kearfottia albifasciella* is found in eastern North America, and is widespread throughout much of the eastern US and southern Ontario and Quebec. The range in the US extends from Maine and other New England states southward to Florida, and westward to eastern Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri and Illinois. This species occurs statewide in North Carolina, but is most prevalent in the Piedmont and lower elevations of the mountains.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Adults have been recorded from areas outside of North Carolina from May through November, with the peak in seasonal activity in June and July. As of 2020, our records late-May through late-August, with most from June and July. Local populations appear to be single brooded.

HABITAT: The habitats are poorly documented, but this species seems to be associated with hardwood forests. Most of our records are from semi-wooded neighborhoods or more natural forested sites. The larvae have never been reported, and it is uncertain whether they depend on particular plant hosts or not.

FOOD: The hosts and feeding ecology are unknown. This species was traditionally placed in the family Tineidae, but some place it in the Psychidae. Most tineids feed on substances other than living plants (e.g., feathers, scat, detritus), while many psychids feed on living plant material. As such, there is much guesswork about the presumed dietary niche of this species.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S4S5]

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

COMMENTS: This species appears to be widespread and somewhat common throughout the state.