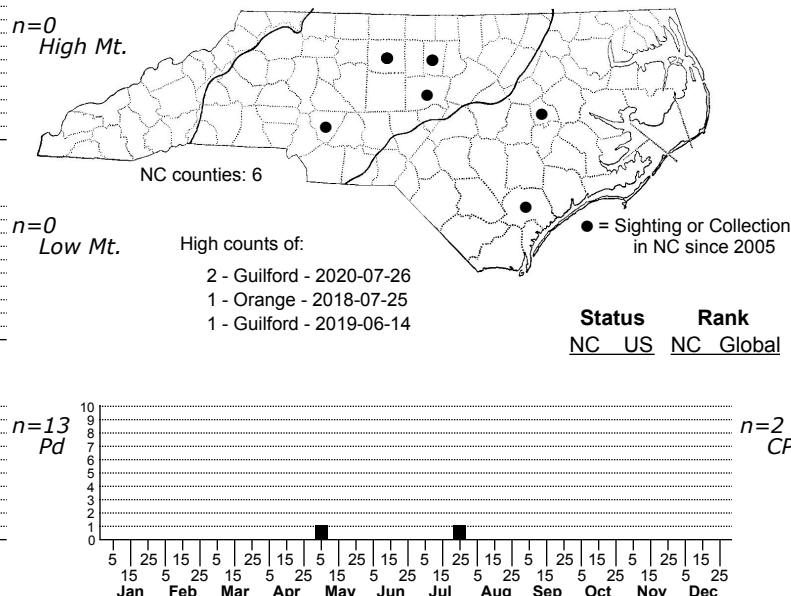
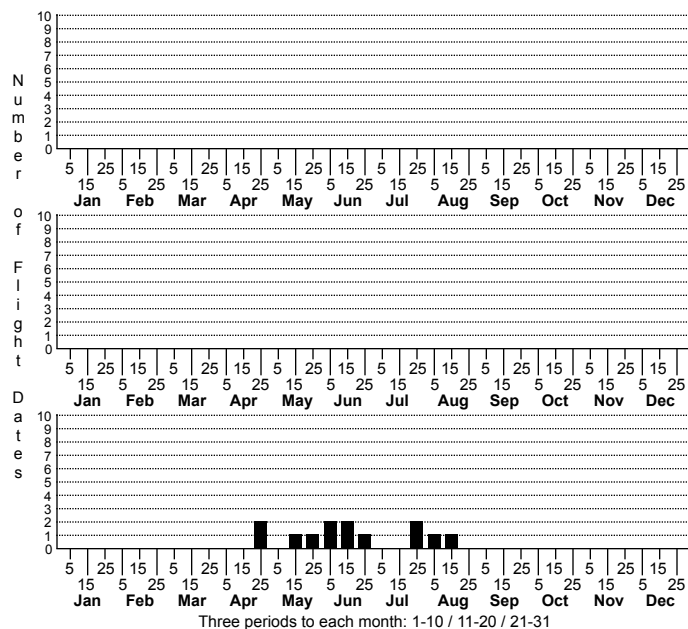


Suleima helianthana Sunflower Bud Moth



FAMILY: Tortricidae SUBFAMILY: Olethreutinae TRIBE: Eucosmini
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Gilligan et al. (2008)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The palps, head, thorax, and ground of the forewing are concolorous and vary from light tan to gray brown. The ground of the forewing often has faint striations that can produce a faintly grizzled pattern, and the entire costa is marked with dark dashes associated with the strigulae (Gilligan et al., 2008). A blackish sub-basal band is present at around one-fourth that begins at the dorsal margin and curves posteriorly before ending near the midwing. A second dark mark is present along the dorsal margin at around two-thirds that is shorter and more oval-shaped. Both are often margined to varying degrees with a thin line of lighter scales. A dull whitish or tan patch follows the posterior mark and fills the dorsal half of the wing to the outer margin. A conspicuous white mark is also usually present at the ocellus near the apex. The hindwing is light grayish-brown with a thin, dark, marginal line at the base of the cilia. The forewing pattern is similar to that of *Phaneta tomonana* but the latter lacks the whitish mark at the ocellus and light dorsal patch near the outer margin.

DISTRIBUTION: The range encompasses a large portion of the U.S. from Connecticut to Florida and westward to California and Idaho. Populations have likely expanded their range in association with the commercial growing of sunflowers and have been recently documented in Canada (e.g., Manitoba; Ontario). As of 2022 we have only four site records from the eastern Piedmont and Coastal Plain.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been observed during most months of the year at southern localities, but are generally most common from May-August elsewhere. As of 2022, our records extend from mid-April through early August.

HABITAT: Local populations are typically found in partially shaded or sunny settings that support native sunflowers. This species can also reach high densities in commercial plantings of sunflowers.

FOOD: Sunflowers (*Helianthus* spp.) are the primary hosts, with Common Sunflower (*H. annuus*) and Jerusalem Artichoke (*Helianthus tuberosus*) being commonly used; other reported hosts include Common Ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*) and Largeflower Tickseed (*Coreopsis grandiflora*) (Eiseman, 2022).

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights. We need information on host use in North Carolina and we encourage naturalists to inspect sunflower stems and flower heads for boring damage and larvae.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S3-S4]

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

COMMENTS: This species was only recently discovered in North Carolina and we do not have sufficient information on its distribution and abundance to accurately assess its conservation status.