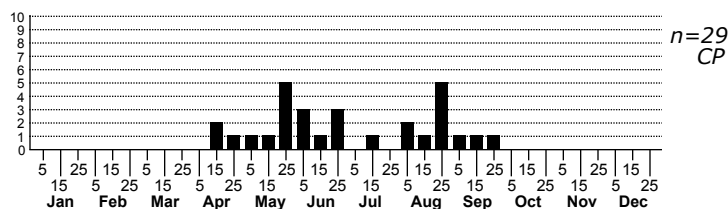
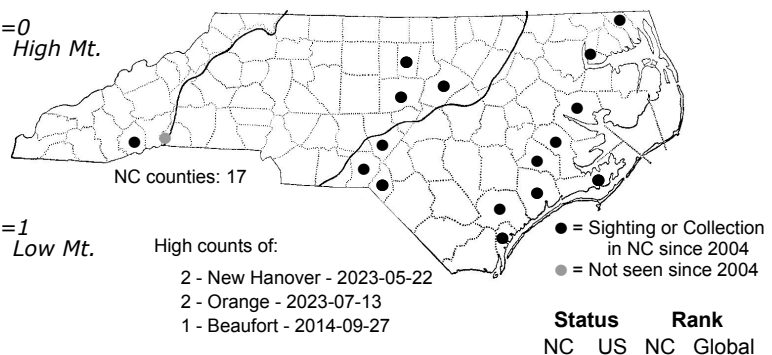
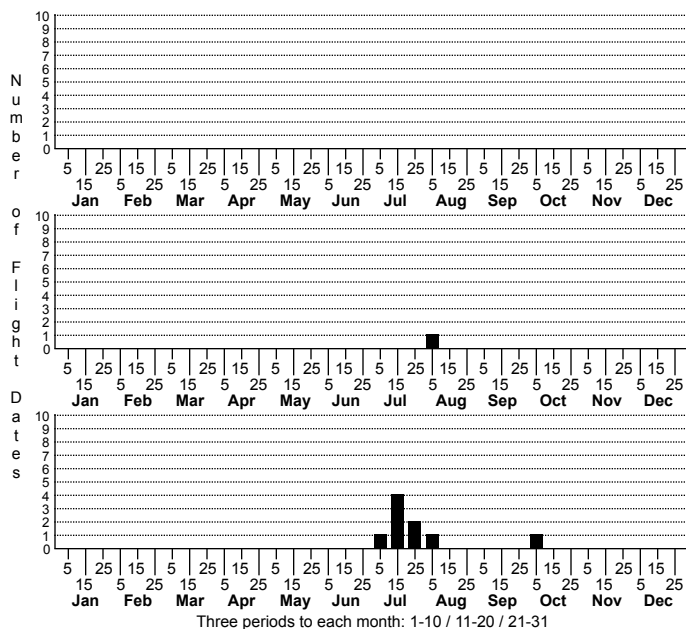


Sonia paraplesiana Hebrew Sonia Moth



FAMILY: Tortricidae SUBFAMILY: Olethreutinae TRIBE: Eucosmini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: *Sonia* is a taxonomically challenging genus because many of the traditionally recognized species are difficult to distinguish based on either external patterning, genitalia, or DNA barcoding. *Sonia constrictana* and *S. paraplesiana* are two morphologically similar forms that were previously considered to occur sympatrically throughout the eastern U.S. In the latest revision of the genus, Wright and Gilligan (2023) recognized these two species based on subtle differences in external morphology and genitalia, but restricted *S. constrictana* to populations that occur in Texas eastward to Louisiana. The more widespread *S. constrictana*-like populations that occur throughout the eastern U.S. were all assigned to *S. paraplesiana*. As such, *S. constrictana* (sensu stricto) is no longer a part of the North Carolina fauna.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: This forewing of this species is dark reddish-brown to blackish brown with a wide, light interfascial bar that extends more-or-less perpendicular from near the middle of the inner margin before terminating well beyond the middle of the wing. The bar is margined basally with a thin whitish line that separates it from the dark-scaled, posterior region of the basal third of the wing, with the latter becoming lighter towards the wing base. The posterior margin of the interfascial bar has a conspicuous, central, finger-like projection that runs between two dark brown blotches that are thinly margined with lighter scales. The finger-like projection connects -- or nearly connects -- with the ocellus, which is concolorous. The two dark blotches include a roughly triangular-shaped mark along the inner margin, and a smaller and more oval-shaped mark that opposes it towards the costa. The costa has a series of alternating whitish strigulae and longer reddish-brown lines, with the latter projecting towards the outer margin. Just before the apex, there is an inverted V-shaped dark mark with white slashes on both sides.

DISTRIBUTION: *Sonia paraplesiana* occurs from Maine and other New England states southward to Florida and westward to eastern Texas, eastern Oklahoma, Missouri, eastern Nebraska and Minnesota. It also has been documented in adjoining areas of Manitoba and Quebec. As of 2024, we have records from all three physiographic regions, with the great majority from the eastern Piedmont and Coastal Plain.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults mostly have been documented from May through September in different areas of the range, with a seasonal peak in June through August, but have a more extended flight season in Florida where they fly from February through December (Wright and Gilligan (2023)). As of 2024, our records extend from mid-April through early-October. Populations in the Coastal Plain appear to have two generations per year.

HABITAT:

FOOD: Larvae reportedly feed on *Baccharis halimifolia* (Robinson et al., 2010); however, we are unaware of any published literature that documents this and it needs additional verification.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

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: