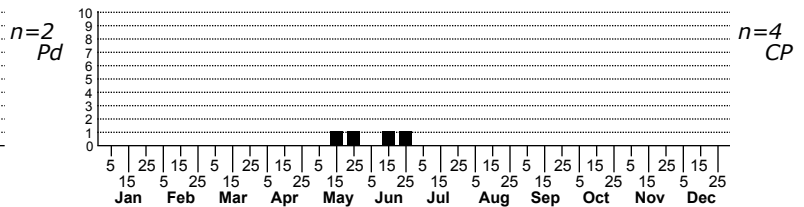
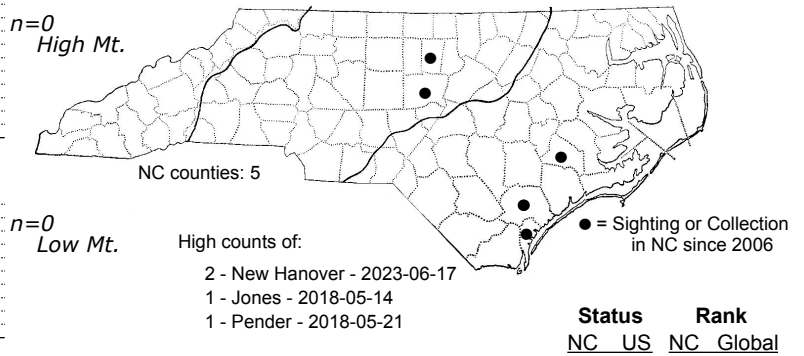
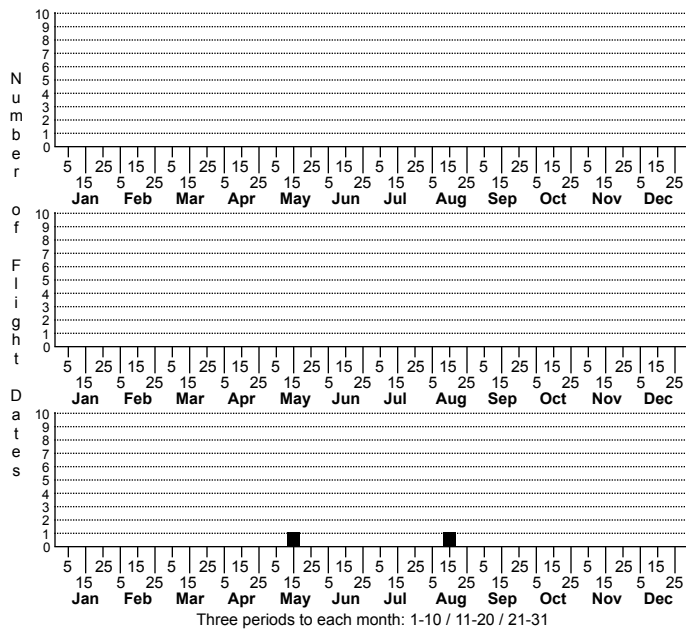


Crociosema unica None



FAMILY: Tortricidae SUBFAMILY: Olethreutinae TRIBE: Eucosmini
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:
ONLINE PHOTOS:
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: This is a distinct marked eucosmine moth that has a group of widely spaced black spots on the thorax and base of the forewing. The following description is primarily based on that of Heinrich (1923). The head and the ground color of the forewing and thorax are concolorous and vary from whitish-brown to pale tannish-brown. The antenna is also pale tannish-brown but with a black second joint. The palps are pale brown with darker dusting laterally and towards the tip, and the upper edge of the second joint has two distinct black spots. The thorax and base of the forewing has a series of widely spaced black dots that produce a bold, peppered effect. The forewing has a more-or-less rectangular grayish fuscous patch along the inner margin at about one-third that extends inwards to about one-third of the wing depth. A dark pre-tornal patch is present along the inner margin, and is followed by an ocelloid patch that is off-whitish with a few faint black spots. The region surrounding the ocelloid patch is pale brown. The costa has fine black streaks from the base to the middle, along with interspersed black streaks and whitish strigulae on the apical half -- with the white mark near the apex most prominent. The apex has a dark eyespot, and there are two or three long orangish-brown streaks that run from the apical third of the costa towards the eyespot and termen. The fringe is whitish gray and dusted with black, and the hindwing is smoky fuscous with a paler fringe that has a dark basal band.

DISTRIBUTION: The range encompasses much of the southeastern US and Puerto Rico. In the Southeast, specimens have been documented from North Carolina southward to southern Florida, and westward to eastern Texas, eastern Oklahoma, and western Kentucky. As of 2022, our limited records are all from the Coastal Plain and eastern Piedmont.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Some local populations may be bivoltine based on phenology distributions (Tyler and Sabourin, 2019). The adults have been observed during most months of the year, but most fly from June through August in areas outside of Florida. As of 2022, our records are from mid-May through late-June.

HABITAT: This species is typically found in sunny or partially sunny habitats that support the host plant, Spurred Butterfly-Pea. Examples include pine savannas, woodland borders, and old fields.

FOOD: Spurred Butterfly-Pea (*Centrosema virginianum*) and Maryland Butterfly-pea (*Clitoria mariana*) are the only documented hosts as of 2025 (Heinrich, 1923; Brown et al., 2008). John Petranka found larvae and successfully reared an adult from the latter from Orange County in 2025, which is a new host record.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S2-S3]

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: This species appear to reach its northern limit along the Atlantic Seaboard in North Carolina where is appears to be uncommon in the state.