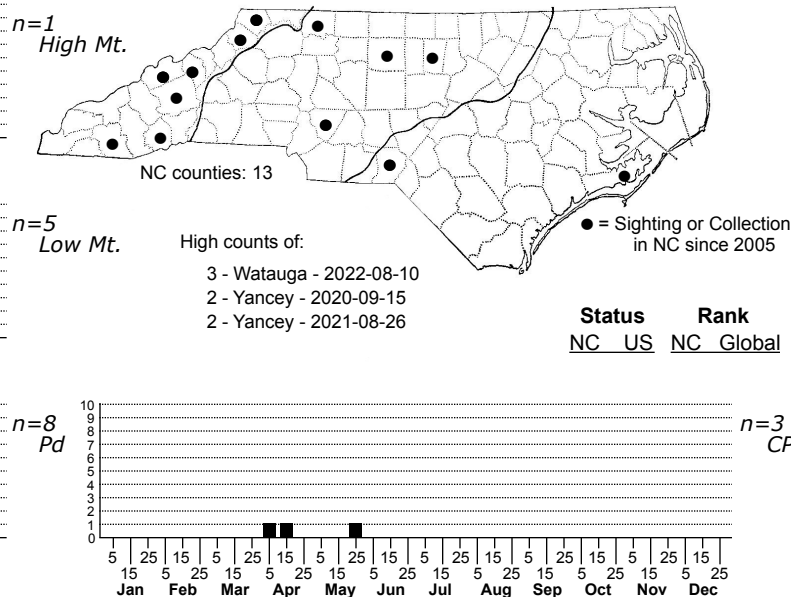
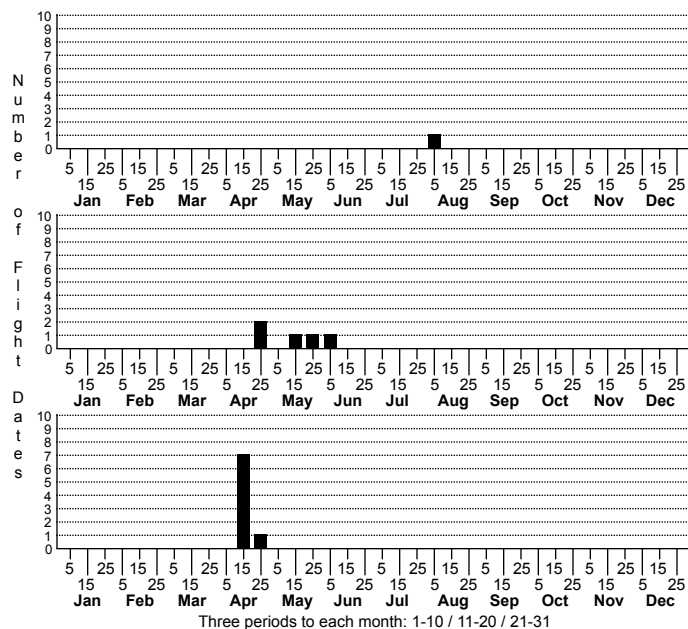


Catastega timidella Oak Trumpet Skeletonizer Moth



FAMILY: Tortricidae SUBFAMILY: Olethreutinae TRIBE: Eucosmini
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1923)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: MacKay (1962)

ID COMMENTS: This species was originally described based on the larvae and larval cases, and a detailed description of the adults is lacking other than that of Forbes (1923). The adult are similar in overall size and coloration to certain *Gretchena* species, and are mostly reliably assigned to genus based on their distinctive genitalia (Brown, 1986; Gilligan et al., 2008). The forewing is weakly bicolored longitudinally, with the costal area brownish, and the whitish dorsal area lined with fuscous (Heinrich, 1923). The whitish coloration along the dorsal margin tends to weakly extend towards the dorsal margin to about one-third the wing length, then angle sharply inward to about the mid-wing, before again angling weakly towards the dorsal margin. It eventually becomes ill-defined in the apical third. The legs are banded and the costa is outwardly striate. A dark, pre-tornal triangular spot is present that often has two blackish spots at or just beyond its apex. Two or three small dark dots are also often present along the dorsal margin anterior to the pre-tornal triangular spot. The apical fringe has a dark line that is cut in places by whitish coloration (Brown, 1986; Forbes, 1923).

This species tends to have a more conspicuously bicolored forewing relative to both *Gretchena* spp. and *C. aceriella*, which is not bicolored and has a prominent sub-basal transverse band that extends from the middle of the wing to the inner margin at an oblique angle. Both of our *Catastega* species produce distinctive tubular frass cases on the undersides of leaves and have different hosts (oaks versus maples) that allow reliable identifications to species. Many of our locality records are based on larval records.

DISTRIBUTION: *Catastega timidella* is found in eastern North America in association with oak forests. Populations have been from the New England states westward through southern Canada to Minnesota, then southward through the eastern US to as far south as southeastern Texas and Florida. As of 2022, we have scattered records from throughout the state, with most from the western mountains.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Local populations appear to be univoltine. Adult records extend from March through August, with a peak in activity from April through June. As of 2022, our records are from early April through early August.

HABITAT: Local populations are strongly dependent on oaks as hosts and are associated with hardwood or mixed hardwood-pine forests. They can also be found in residential areas where oaks are present.

FOOD: *Catastega timidella* uses oaks as hosts (Eiseman, 2019), including White Oak (*Quercus alba*), Burr Oak (*Q. macrocarpa*), and Northern Red Oak (*Q. rubra*). This species was found on a walnut (*Juglans* sp.) and a birch (*Betula* sp.) in Canada (Miller 1987), but these taxa are presumably almost never used as hosts. In North Carolina, we have records from Northern Red Oak and White Oak.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults occasionally visit lights and the fecal tubes can be found beneath silk sheets on the undersides of leaves. *Acrobasis minimella* is another oak feeder that produces fecal tubes, but these are larger and much more sinuous than those of *C. timidella*.

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: This species is far less frequently encountered in the state than is *C. aceriella*, but appears to be relatively secure due to its statewide distribution and use of oaks as hosts.