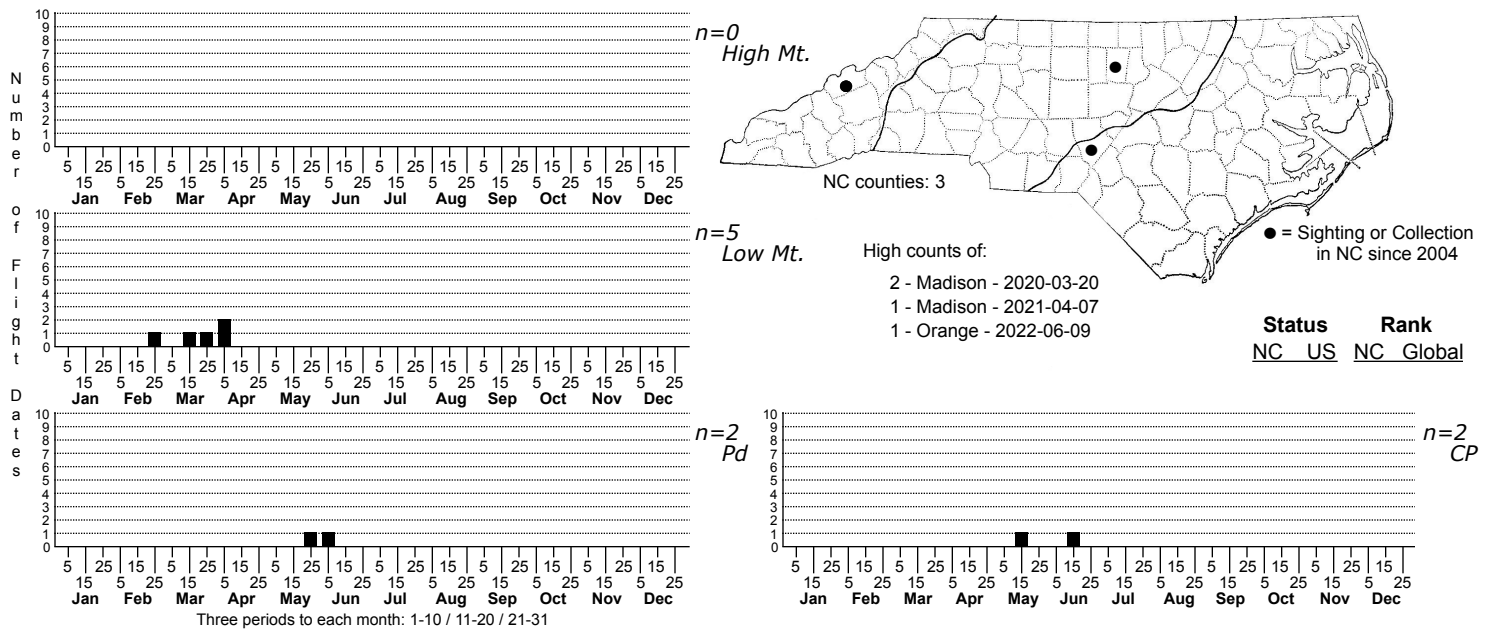


## *Satronia tantilla* Southern Pine Catkinworm Moth



FAMILY: Tortricidae SUBFAMILY: Olethreutinae TRIBE: Grapholitini  
 TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS:

**FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:**

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Heinrich (1926)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Hedlin et al. (1980)

**ID COMMENTS:** The following description is based in part on that of Heinrich (1926). The antennae, palps, face and head vary from grayish white to light brown, while the thorax is grayish fuscous. The forewing ground color is grayish fuscous, but often tends towards orangish brown on the apical third. The most conspicuous marks are a pair of moderately broad and outwardly curved or angulated, leaden, metallic bands that extend from the costa before the middle to just beyond the middle of the inner margin. The ocelloid patch is a single vertical metallic bar that is outwardly margined by 4-6 short, faint, black dashes on a ground that is faintly dusted with white. The costal third has three or four whitish to leaden metallic dashes, with the anteriormost often elongated and in some cases extending to the ocellus to form an outwardly angulated band. The termen is edged in black and the fringe is leaden fuscous with a whitish line at the base that adjoins the black line on the termen. The hindwing is pale smoky fuscous and the fringe dull whitish with a dark basal band.

*Satronia tantilla* is often confused with *Cydia marita*, but in the latter, 1) there are usually three elongated dashes in the ocellus rather than four or more short dashes or spots, 2) there are often two streaks from the costa that tend to converge toward the anterior bar on the ocellus to form the angulated post-median band, versus a single streak for *S. tantilla*, 3) the terminal three gray striae on the costal margin often continue well into the interior of the wing and may faintly cut the black line on the termen, while those of *S. tantilla* are short and do not extend into the interior of the wing, and 4) the post-median band is set farther from the outer margin and contacts the inner margin well before the tornus, versus at or near the tornus in *S. tantilla*.

**DISTRIBUTION:** *Satronia tantilla* is largely restricted to the southeastern US, with records extending from eastern Texas and Arkansas eastward to Florida and northward to as far as Maryland and Massachusetts. As of 2022, we have only three site records for the state, two from the eastern Piedmont and one from a lower-elevation site in the Blue Ridge.

**FLIGHT COMMENT:** Specimens have been documented nearly year-round in Florida where there can be three generations or more per year, and from March through August elsewhere. As of 2022, our records are from mid-March through early June.

**HABITAT:** This species is dependent on pine trees as hosts and is typically found in either pine forests or mixed pine-hardwood settings.

**FOOD:** The larval feed primarily on pine catkins (Brown et al. 1983; Hedlin et al., 1980) and the known host include Slash Pine (*Pinus elliottii*) and Longleaf Pine (*P. palustris*). Other pines are undoubtedly used since populations have been documented well outside of the range of these two species, including in North Carolina.

**OBSERVATION\_METHODS:** The adults are attracted to lights and the larvae can be found in pine catkins during the spring months.

**NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS:** GNR [S2-S3]

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

**COMMENTS:** This species is seemingly uncommon in North Carolina despite the widespread occurrence of pines in the state. We need more information on host use, distribution, and abundance before we can assess the conservation status of this species in North Carolina.