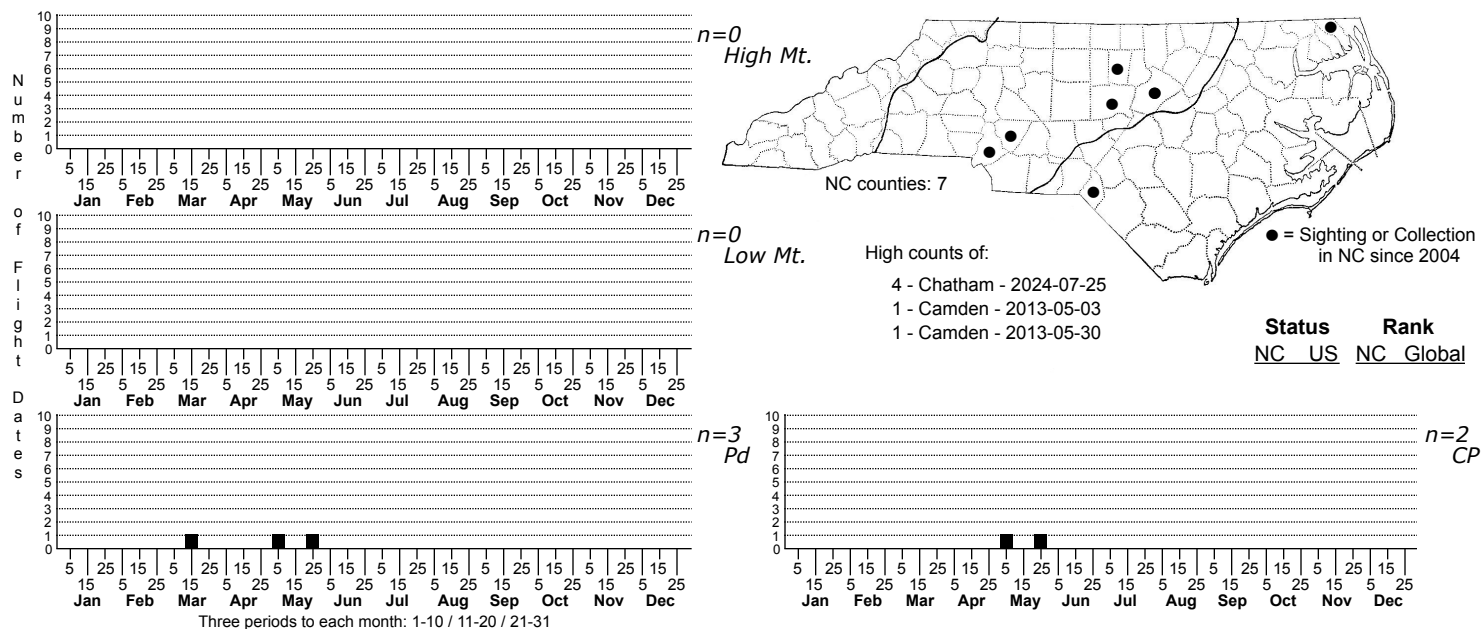


## *Talponia plummeriana* Speckled Talponia Moth



FAMILY: Tortricidae SUBFAMILY: Olethreutinae TRIBE: Grapholitini

TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS: The genus *Talponia* contains only two described species, with only one occurring in North America.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Busck (1906a).

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: This is a strikingly patterned species that is difficult to confuse with others. The following description is primarily based on that of Busck (1906a). The labial palps are whitish yellow with black tips and the head and thorax are whitish and profusely mixed with black scales. The forewing is sharply bicolored -- with the basal two-thirds light ashy and boldly striated with undulating blackish lines -- and the apical third a mixture of dark purplish and rusty-brown. A bluish-metallic line separating the two parts. The apical third of the costa has a black margin that is cut by 5-6 short, whitish streaks, and two bluish-metallic lines that cut through the rusty-brown ground color and project towards the termen. Additional patches of bluish-metallic coloration extend towards the subterminal area. A black rounded dot is present at the apex, and several blackish spots occur along the termen. The fringe is grayish with a dark basal line. The hindwing is dark purplish-brown with a whitish costal edge and a marginal line of golden yellow in the apical region. The legs are silvery and barred and annulated with black.

DISTRIBUTION: *Talponia plummeriana* ranges from Maryland and vicinity southward to Florida and to Alabama, western Tennessee, western Kentucky, and Illinois. As of 2022, we have records from both the Piedmont and Coastal Plain.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Many local populations appear to have two generations per year. The adults have been documented from February through September in different portions of the range. As of 2022, our very limited records are all from May.

HABITAT: Local populations are strongly dependent on pawpaws as hosts and are only found where pawpaw stands are found locally.

FOOD: Larvae feed on pawpaws (Eiseman, 2020; Robinson et al., 2010; Sedlacek et al., 2012), including Dwarf Pawpaw (*Asimina parviflora*) and Common Pawpaw (*A. triloba*). We have records of both hosts being used in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights and are occasionally found resting on vegetation during the day. The larvae should be sought after on pawpaw flowers and in peduncles and stems during the spring bloom.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: [GNR] S2S4

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

COMMENTS: This species appears to be uncommon in the state, but may have been undercollected due to it being strongly affiliated with pawpaws, which tend to be patchily distributed across the landscape.