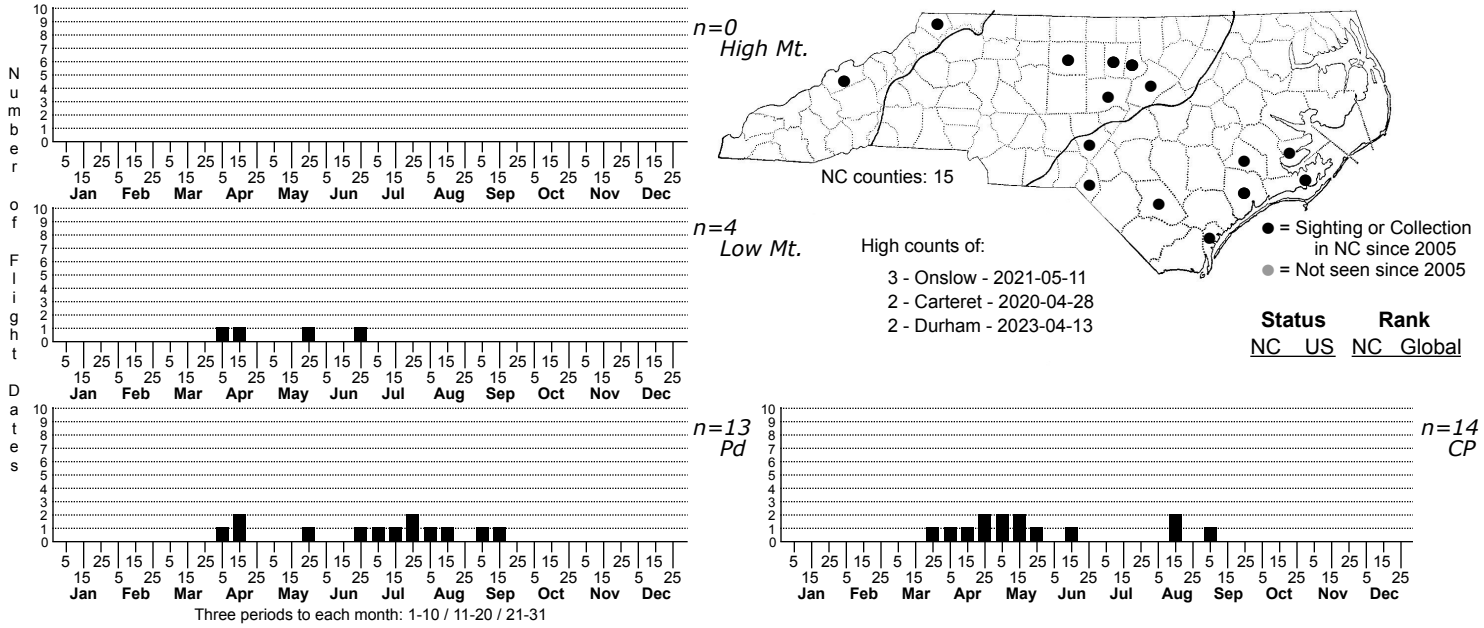
Grapholita packardi Cherry Fruitworm Moth



FAMILY: Tortricidae SUBFAMILY: Olethreutinae TRIBE: Grapholitini
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Beadle and Leckie (2012)
ONLINE PHOTOS:
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: MacKay (1959)

ID COMMENTS: The adults occur as both light and dark color forms. For the light forms, the head, palps, and antennae are medium brown. The forewing ground has a mixture of light brown and pale scales. The most prominent mark is a large dark brown fascia that extends from just beyond the middle of the inner margin inward to near the costa, where it meets a somewhat darker, narrower, and posteriorly oblique mid-costal streak. The fascia tends to narrow just before reaching the inner margin. The area between the fascia and the wing base usually has a series of alternating, irregular, silvery and dark striae, while the costal margin has pairs of whitish strigulae along much of its length. A curved line of eight or so black dashes is present in the preterminal region. These extend inward from below the inner margin in the pretornal area to just beyond the middle, then curve basally and terminate before reaching the costa at about four-fifths. The fringe is grayish-brown with a darker basal line, and the hindwing is grayish-brown with a paler fringe and darker basal line. The dark forms are similar but have most or all of the forewing patterning obscured by heavy dark dusting. The males of both forms have a large patch of blackish sex scaling on the upper surface of the hindwing and a similar patch on the undersurface of the forewing.

The dark form of Grapholita packardi is very similar to G. molesta, but is generally much smaller (3.5-5.0 mm versus 5.0-6.5 mm), and the curved line of black dots in the preterminal region of G. molesta is replaced by relatively long dashes. Examination of female genitalia may be required in some instances.

DISTRIBUTION: Grapholita packardi is widely distributed in eastern North America in areas of southern Canada (Ontario; Quebec; New Brunswick; Nova Scotia) and in the US from Maine to central Florida, and westward to central Texas, eastern Oklahoma, Missouri, eastern Nebraska and Wisconsin. It is also present in Oregon, Washington, British Columbia and Alberta. As of 2022, we have records from all three physiographic provinces. Local populations are encountered more frequently in the Coastal Plain and eastern Piedmont and are rarely seen in the Blue Ridge.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been documented from March through November, with seasonal peaks typically from June through August in most areas. As of 2022, we have records that span from mid-April to mid-September.

HABITAT: This species is often locally common in commercial fruit operations.

FOOD: The larvae feed on blueberries (Vaccinium; Ericaceae) as well as several members of the Rosaceae (Heinrich, 1926; MacKay, 1959; Chapman and Lienk 1971, Brown et al., 1983, 2008; Robinson et al., 2010). The known hosts include ornamental Pyracantha and roses (Rosa spp.), and commercially grown cherries, apples, pears, peaches, and blueberries. Native plants that are used include hawthorns (Crataegus spp.), Black Cherry (Prunus serotina), and presumably native blueberries. The larvae can be a pest in commercial blueberry operations in North Carolina (Burrack, 2015). The adults have also been reared from galls on the leaves of elms and oaks, and from woody galls on plums (Chapman and Lienk 1971).

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights and pheromone traps, and the larvae can be found in berries and fruits.

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: