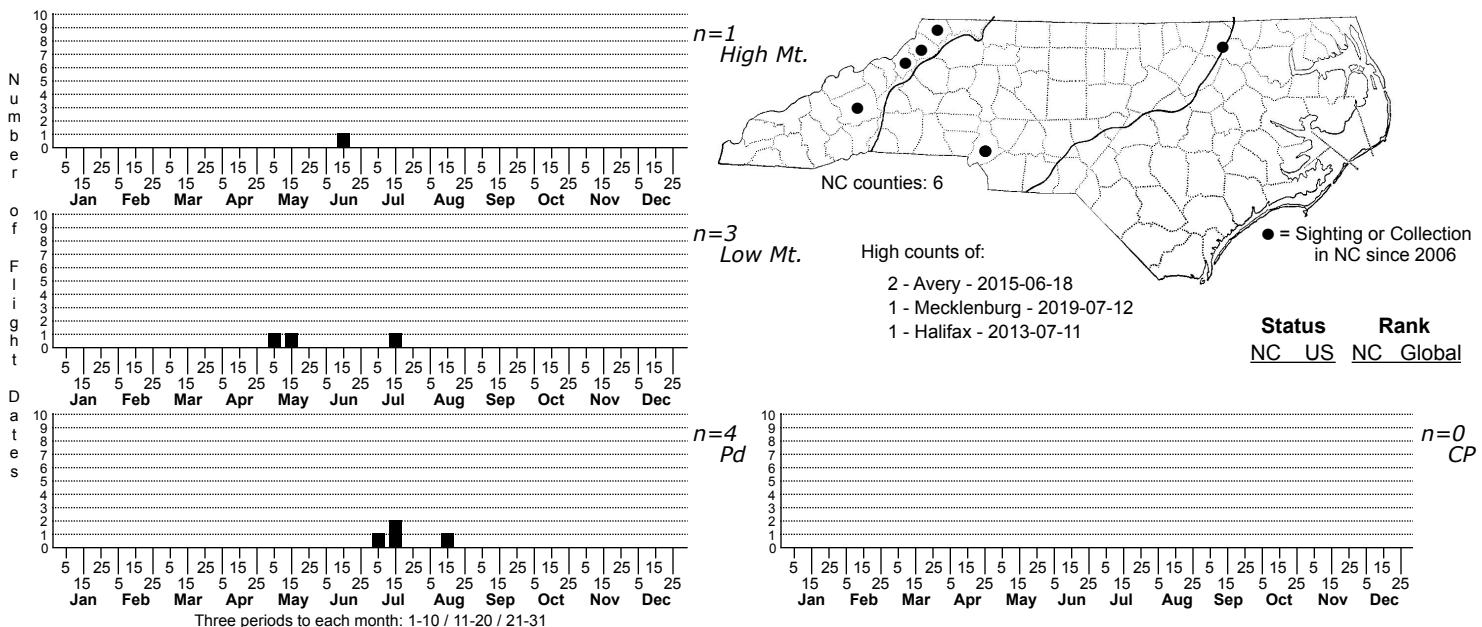


# Grapholita interstinctana Clover Head Caterpillar Moth



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: In this species the palps are whitish, and the head, thorax, antennae and ground of the forewing are all dark brown. The most prominent mark on the forewing is a curved, white, dorsal streak at the middle of the inner margin. The streak terminates near the middle of the wing at a silvery spot and is divided down the middle by a dark brown line. The ocellus is poorly expressed and represented by a single silvery bar with black edging. The costa has a series of around eight yellowish-white streaks that extend from about one-third to near the apex, with some having a short silvery or silvery-blue extension. The fringe is light brown with a darker basal line at the termen, and the hindwing is dark brown with a slightly paler fringe that also has a dark basal line. This species is most similar to *Grapholita fana*, but the latter has a prominent ocellus with a well-defined central field that has 4-5 black horizontal dashes.

DISTRIBUTION: *Grapholita interstinctana* is found in Canada from Nova Scotia and Quebec westward to the Northwest Territories (Pohl et al., 2018). In the US it ranges from Maine westward to Minnesota and South Dakota, and southward to Oklahoma, Mississippi, Tennessee, and North Carolina. As of 2022, all of our records are from the Piedmont and Blue Ridge.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been observed from April through September, with the seasonal peak in activity in May through August. As of 2022, we have records from early May through mid-August.

HABITAT: Local populations are commonly found in agricultural fields, pastures, prairies, roadways, old fields, urban parks, and other open sites that support clovers and other herbaceous vegetation.

FOOD: The larvae appear to most commonly use clovers as hosts (Folsom, 1909; Heinrich, 1926; MacKay, 1959), but there are also records of them using Sawtooth Sunflower (*Helianthus grosseserratus*), Common Sheep Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), and American Licorice (*Glycyrrhiza lepidota*; Boe and Johnson, 2016; Wehrle, 1924). Clovers that are used include Red Clover (*Trifolium pratense*), Crimson Clover (*T. incarnatum*), White Clover (*T. repens*), and Alsike Clover (*T. hybridum*).

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights and the larvae can be found in the heads of clovers.

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 near the southern limit of its range in North Carolina and appears to be uncommon within the state. We need additional information on its distribution and abundance before we can assess its conservation status.