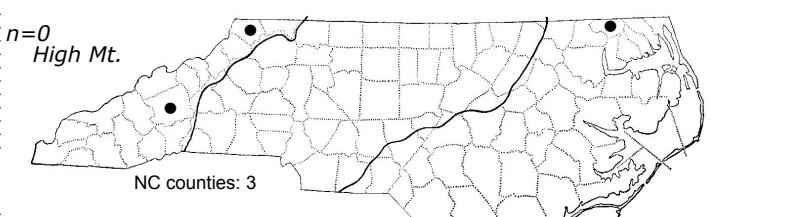
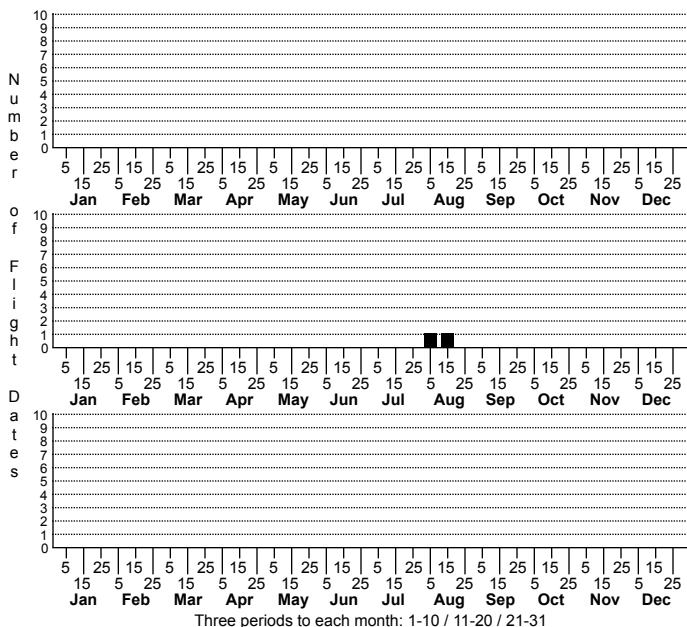


Cydia pomonella Codling Moth



High counts of:
 1 - Gates - 2014-10-14
 1 - Buncombe - 2017-08-06
 1 - Ashe - 2025-08-11

Status	Rank		
NC	US	NC	Global

n=1
CP

FAMILY: Tortricidae SUBFAMILY: Olethreutinae TRIBE: Grapholitini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: *Cydia* is a large genus with over 200 described species that occur worldwide, and with around 50 species in North America. Several species are important economic pests that often feed on fruits and seeds.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984); Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1923)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: MacKay (1959)

ID COMMENTS: The following description is based in part of that of Forbes (1923). The head, palps, antennae, and thorax are all gray. The forewing ground is pale gray with a series of vertical, irregular, darker gray striations. A broad, dark-gray, antemedial band is present at around one-fourth that extends from the costa to the inner margin. The outer margin of the band is broadly scalloped and bowed outward near the middle. The ocellus has two vertical bronzy-brown to golden-brown bars on the anterior and posterior margins, with the outer one more or less broken up. The central region is filled with golden-brown to chocolate brown that continues beyond the ocellus where it forms a large oval area that almost reaches the costa and termen. The ocellus is preceded by a curved, heavy, black bar that extends from the sub-tornal region to the vertical bar on the ocellus, where it ends in a point. The costa is striated and gray like the wing, and the fringe is grayish to grayish-brown with a black basal line. The hindwing is brown with a paler fringe that has a dark basal line.

DISTRIBUTION: *Cydia pomonella* is native to Eurasia but has spread globally with the commercial cultivation of apples and pears. It is broadly distributed across North America where apples and other fruit crops are grown, including much of the non-arid regions of the US and adjoining areas of southern Canada. As of 2022, we only have two site records for North Carolina. This species is a significant pest in apple-growing regions of the state such as Henderson County and has been under-reported due to many populations being restricted to the immediate vicinity of apple orchards.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Adults in the eastern US typically fly from April or May through October. The adults first emerge in North Carolina in April and May. As of 2022, our very limited records are from early August and mid-October.

HABITAT: Local populations are commonly associated with apple orchards and other fruit-bearing trees.

FOOD: The larvae are polyphagous and feed on a variety of host plants, particularly members of the Rosaceae. Some of the domesticated orchard plants that are used include apples, pears, peaches, and quince, while native hosts that are used throughout the range include chestnuts (*Castanea* spp.), oaks (*Quercus* spp.), Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*), American Plum (*Prunus americanus*), and hawthorns (*Crataegus* spp.). We do not have any feeding records in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights and readily come to pheromone traps.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS:

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

COMMENTS: This is an introduced pest and does not merit protection.
 March 2026

The Moths of North Carolina - Early Draft