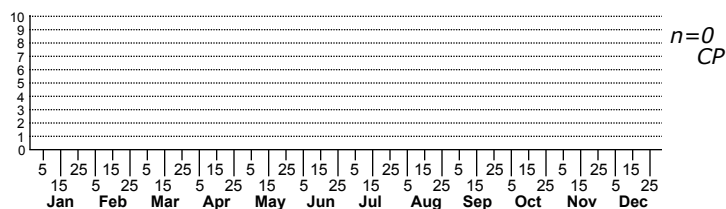
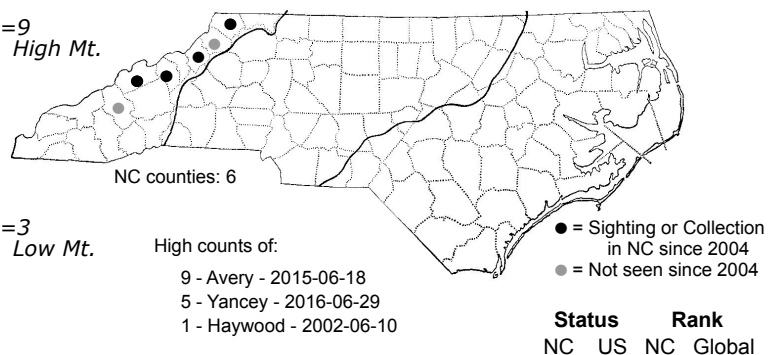
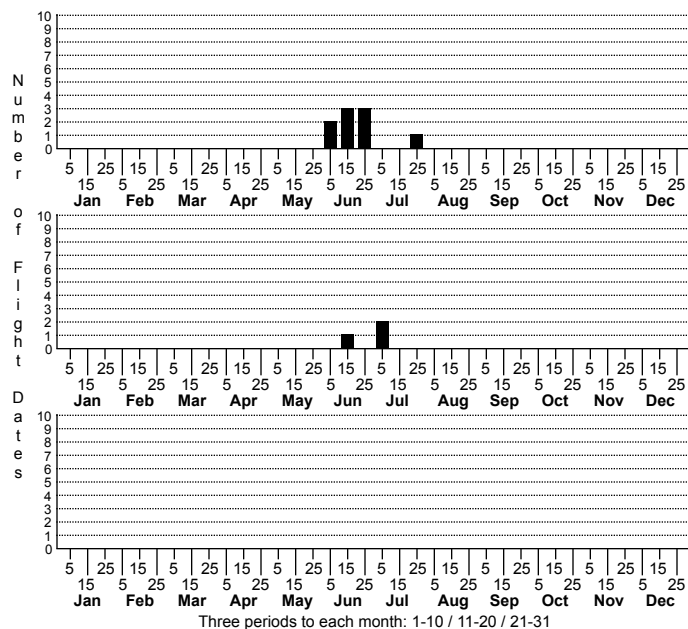


# *Clepsis persicana* White-triangle Tortrix Moth



FAMILY: Tortricidae SUBFAMILY: Tortricinae TRIBE: Archipini  
TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS:

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Freeman (1958)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Chapman and Lienk (1971); MacKay (1962)

ID COMMENTS: This is a distinctive species with a prominent white costal patch that contrasts sharply with the surrounding reddish-brown coloration. The following is based on descriptions by Forbes (1923) and Freeman (1958). The head, palps and thorax are yellowish-tawny. The forewing is light orangish-ocherous from the base to the inner edge of the posteriorly oblique median band. The median band is reddish-brown and extends from the costa to the inner margin. It fuses with a similarly colored broad band that extends from the costa at about three-fourths to the middle of the wing. The fused bands enclose a large, triangular, silvery-white costal patch. The terminal fourth of the wing has a mixture of light reddish brown that is dusted with silvery-gray anteriorly, along with a whitish zone at the termen that is infused with reddish-brown speckles. The fringe is light ochereous. The hindwing is smoky gray except for a narrow light gray zone along the costa, and the fringe is whitish with a thin, dark, basal line. The costal fold of the male is well developed and extends all the way to the white costal patch.

DISTRIBUTION: *Clepsis persicana* is broadly distributed across North America where boreal or cool, temperate forests prevail. It occurs in the US in Alaska, in California and the Pacific Northwest, in the central and northern Rockies, and in the eastern US. In the East the range extends from Maine southward through the Appalachian region to western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee, and westward through the Great Lakes region to Minnesota and eastern North Dakota. This species occurs in much of southern and central Canada from the Yukon Territories and British Columbia eastward to Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. As of 2023, all of our records are from medium to higher elevation sites in the Blue Ridge.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been observed from May through October in different areas of the range, with most areas having a seasonal peak in activity during June and July. As of 2023, our records extend from early June through early July.

HABITAT: Local populations are typically found in boreal or cool-temperate forests. As of 2023, all of our records come from mid- to high elevations in the Blue Ridge and mainly from Spruce-Fir forests.

FOOD: The larvae are highly polyphagous and feed on a taxonomically diverse group of plants that include conifers, hardwood trees and shrubs, grasses, and herbs (MacKay, 1962; Powell, 1964; Prentice, 1966; Chapman and Lienk, 1971; Ferguson, 1975; Powell and De Benedictis, 1996; Robinson et al., 2010; Gilligan and Epstein, 2014). The reported hosts include Balsam Fir (*Abies balsamea*) and other firs, Box-elder (*Acer negundo*) and other maples, alders (*Alnus*), serviceberries (*Amelanchier*), asters (*Aster*), English Daisy (*Bellis perennis*), birches (*Betula*), *Ceanothus*, Sweet-fern (*Comptonia peregrina*), hazelnuts (*Corylus*), American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), strawberries (*Fragaria*), ashes (*Fraxinus*), larches (*Larix*), Canada Mayflower (*Maianthemum canadense*), apples (*Malus domestica*), American Hop-hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*), Common Timothy (*Phleum pratense*), spruces (*Picea*), smartweeds (*Polygonum*), Mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum*), Balsam Poplar (*Populus balsamifera*), Quaking Aspen (*P. tremuloides*), cherries and peaches (*Prunus*), Choke Cherry (*P. virginiana*), Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), buttercups (*Ranunculus*), *Raphanus*, gooseberries (*Ribes*), roses (*Rosa*), brambles (*Rubus*), Sheep Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*) and elms (*Ulmus*).

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S2S3

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

COMMENTS: This species reaches its southern range limit in the southern Appalachians and is mostly restricted to high-elevation forests that may be vulnerable to future climate change.