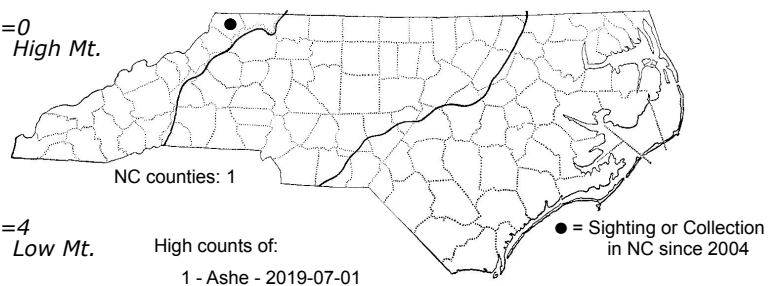
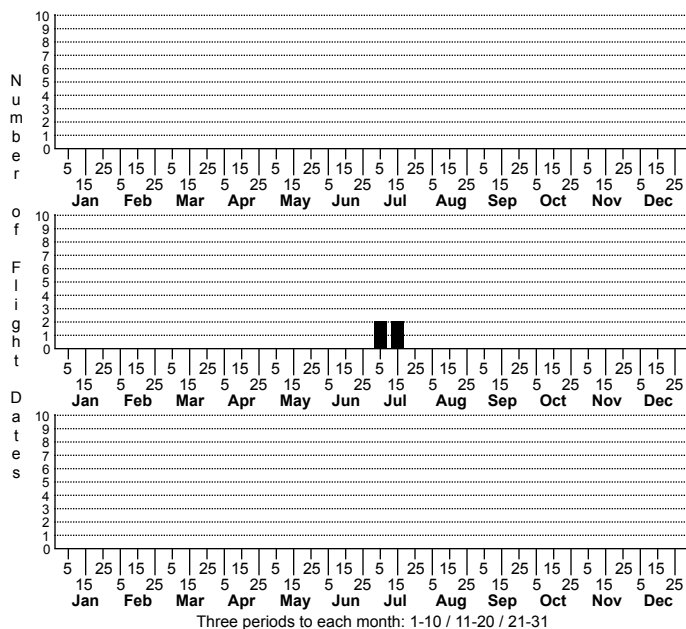


# *Clepsis clemensiana* Clemens' Clepsis Moth



High counts of:  
 1 - Ashe - 2019-07-01  
 1 - Ashe - 2019-07-01  
 1 - Ashe - 2018-07-19

Status		Rank	
NC	US	NC	Global



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

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Freeman (1958)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: MacKay (1962)

ID COMMENTS: The following description is primarily based on that of Freeman (1958). The head, palps, and thorax vary from light ochreous to tawny. The forewing is entirely shining straw yellow and unmarked, and the veins are often outlined with slightly darker scales. The hindwing and fringe are white, and fuscous scales are sometimes present in the anal region. The males have a well-developed costal fold that has elongate, whitish scales. The forewing is long and narrow, and the apex is nearly falcate in some individuals.

DISTRIBUTION: *Clepsis clemensiana* has northern affinities and is broadly distributed across the northern US, Alaska, and southern Canada from the Yukon, Northwest Territories, and British Columbia eastward to Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. In the conterminous United States the range extends from Maine westward across the northern tier of states to Washington, and southward to northern California, northern New Mexico, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and North Carolina. Populations are generally absent from the arid, non-forested regions of the West. As of 2023 we have only two site records and both are from Ashe Co. where there appears to be a disjunct population from the main range farther north.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been found from March through October in different areas of the range, with June through August typically being the primary flight season. Local populations have one or two generations per year depending on the location. As of 2023, our four records from Ashe County are all from July.

HABITAT: Populations are generally found in open habitats that support grasses and forbs, including old fields, mowed pastures, roadways, fens, and prairies. Our one site record as of 2023 is from an infrequently mowed meadow.

FOOD: The larvae are polyphagous and feed on a variety of herbaceous plants and grasses, with grasses suspected of being the most important host group (Putman, 1935; Powell, 1964; Freeman, 1958; Powell and Opler, 2009; Gilligan and Epstein, 2014). The reported hosts include dogbane (*Apocynum*), Common Timothy (*Phleum pratense*), goldenrods (*Solidago*), New England Aster (*Symphotrichum novae-angliae*) and other asters, and Bread Wheat (*Triticum aestivum*).

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S1-S2]

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: This species is rare in North Carolina, with a single known population in Ashe County that appears to be a southern disjunct from the main range that occurs farther north.