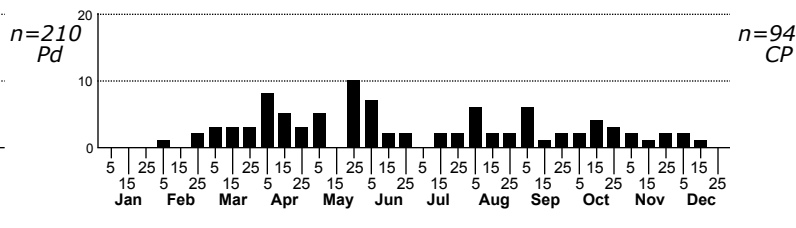
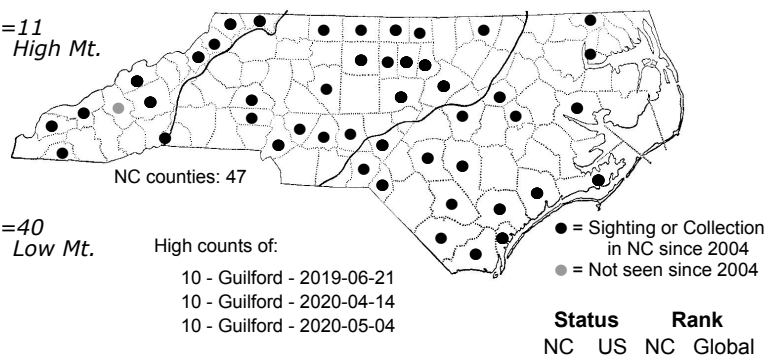
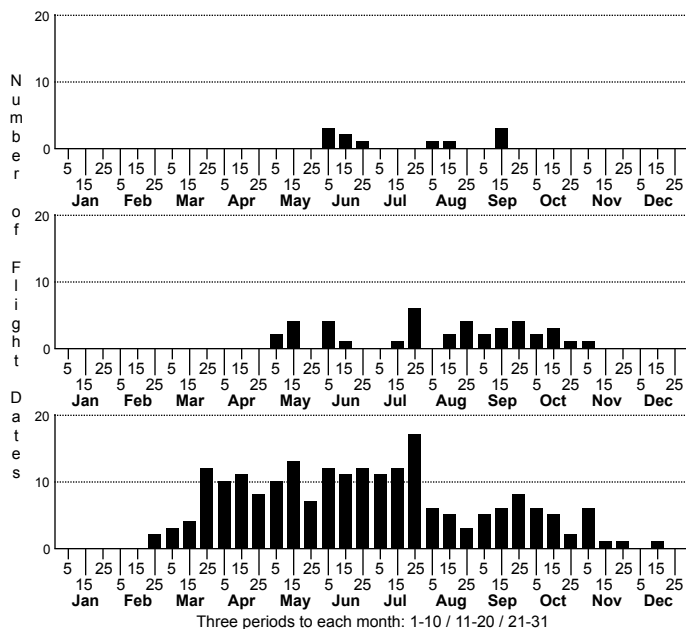


Clepsis peritana Garden Tortrix Moth



FAMILY: Tortricidae SUBFAMILY: Tortricinae TRIBE: Archipini
 TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984; as *Ptycholoma peritana*); Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Freeman (1958)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: MacKay (1962)

ID COMMENTS: The following is mostly based on the description by Forbes (1923) and Freeman (1958). The head, palps, and thorax are tan to light brown. The forewing ground color is concolorous with the head and thorax and has a series of fine, brown, transverse striations. The ground is overlain with two or three brown to dark-brown marks. These include a well-defined, posteriorly oblique, median fascia that extends from the costa to the inner margin, and a dark-brown pre-apical costal spot. Both are usually margined with a thin whitish line along the anterior edge, and often as well on the posterior side. The costal spot often extends inward as a narrowing band to the tornus. Most North Carolina specimens also have a small, sub-dorsal, crescent-shaped mark near the base of the wing. Males and females have similar markings but the median fascia and costal spot are usually less distinct in the females. The fringe is light brown to dull white, and the hindwing is light smoky brown or grayish brown with a slightly paler fringe.

Clepsis peritana is similar to *C. virescans*, but the males of the latter have a costal fold and the dark marks are not margined with a whitish line. The median band of *Clepsis peritana* is intact while that of *C. virescans* is usually interrupted or faintly expressed in the middle.

DISTRIBUTION: *Clepsis peritana* is broadly distributed across much of the United States and southern Canada. Populations occur as far north as Alaska and in southern Canada from British Columbia eastward to Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. It occurs throughout much of the US from Maine to southern Florida and westward to California, Oregon, Colorado, Nebraska, Minnesota, and North Dakota. This species occurs statewide in North Carolina.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Local populations are multivoltine, with from 2-4 generations in the northern part of the range and as many as 6-7 in Florida and other southern locations. The adults have been found in every month of the year in the southern portion of the range, and mostly from May through September in northern areas. As of 2023, our records are from early February through mid-December, with a more compressed flight season in the Blue Ridge.

HABITAT: Our records come from a wide range of habitats that range from mesic to xeric. Examples include barrier islands, coastal pine and bottomland forests, old fields, semi-wooded residential areas, and northern hardwood forests in the mountains.

FOOD: The larvae appear to mostly feed on dead and decaying leaves, but secondarily feed on the leaves, flowers, and fruits of living plants. Commercial crops such as strawberries, citrus, and beans are often eaten, and native plants are occasionally consumed (Atkins, 1958; Freeman, 1958; Powell, 1964; Brown et al., 2008; Gilligan and Epstein, 2014; TortID). The reported host include daisies (*Chrysanthemum*), Cardoon (*Cynara cardunculus*), cultivated apples (*Malus domestica*), Lima Bean (*Phaseolus lunatus*), Stinking Willie (*Senecio jacobaea*), hedgenettles (*Stachys*), strawberries (*Fragaria*), citrus fruits (*Citrus*), California Figwort (*Scrophularia californica*) and Turkey Berry (*Solanum torvum*). Many other species are undoubtedly used.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The larvae are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S5

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

COMMENTS: This species is widespread and common in North Carolina and appears to be secure.