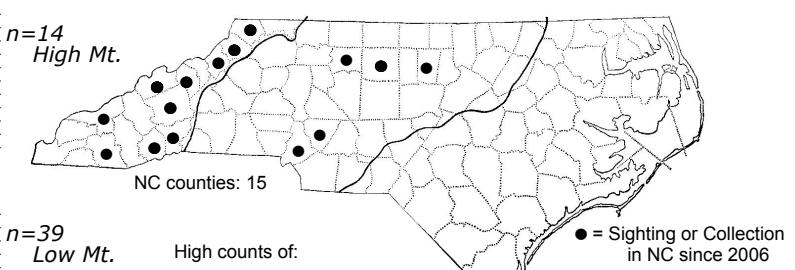
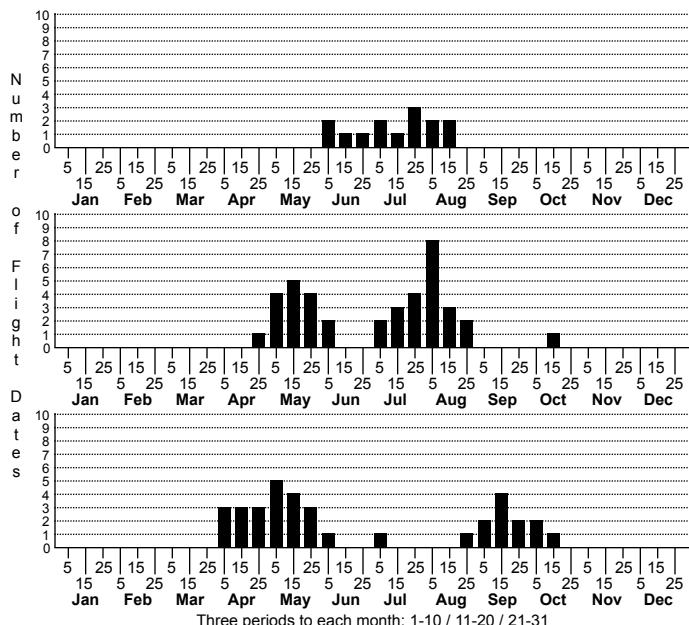


# Clepsis virescana Greenish Apple Moth



High counts of:  
10 - Guilford - 2020-05-01  
10 - Guilford - 2020-09-12  
10 - Guilford - 2020-09-24

Status Rank  
NC US NC Global

n=0  
CP

FAMILY: Tortricidae SUBFAMILY: Tortricinae TRIBE: Archipini  
TAXONOMIC COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1923); Freeman (1958)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

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 olivaceous. The forewing ground color is concolorous with the head and thorax, and sometimes has a series of fine, brown, transverse striations. The ground is overlain with two brown to dark-brown marks. These include an often poorly-defined, posteriorly oblique, median band that extends from the costa to the inner margin, and a dark-brown pre-apical costal spot. The median band can be intact, but more often is well marked at the costa and either fades away towards the inner margin or is interrupted near the middle. The fringe is light brown to dull white, and the hindwing is light smoky brown or grayish brown with a slightly paler fringe.

This species resembles *Clepsis peritana*, but the males have a small, contrasting, brown costal fold (missing in *C. peritana*) and the dark marks are not margined with a whitish line. The median band of *C. peritana* is intact, while that of *C. virescana* is usually interrupted or faintly expressed away from the costa.

DISTRIBUTION: *Clepsis virescana* 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 southwestward through the Appalachian region and Piedmont to as far south as southern Mississippi, Louisiana, and central Texas, and westward to California, Oregon, Washington and the Rocky Mountains. In the East it reaches its western limits in central Texas, central Oklahoma, Missouri, Minnesota, and eastern North Dakota. As of 2023, our records are all from the Piedmont and Blue Ridge.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults of this wide-ranging species have been found from March through November in different areas of the range. Local populations in North Carolina appear to be bivoltine except at higher-elevations in the Blue Ridge, with adults first flying in April and May and later in mid- to late-summer.

HABITAT: Populations appear to prefer forested habitats. Most of our records are from either mesic hardwood forests or semi-wooded residential areas.

FOOD: The larval hosts are poorly documented. Powell and Opler (2009) found that the larvae will feed on various soft-leaf plants and decaying leaves in captivity. They surmised that the larval diet is similar to that of *C. peritana*, with larvae mostly feeding on dead and decaying leaves, but secondarily feeding on the leaves, flowers, and fruits of living plants. The only documented host is Western Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana* var. *demissa*).

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S4S5]

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

COMMENTS: This species is often locally abundant and populations show no evidence of marked population declines.