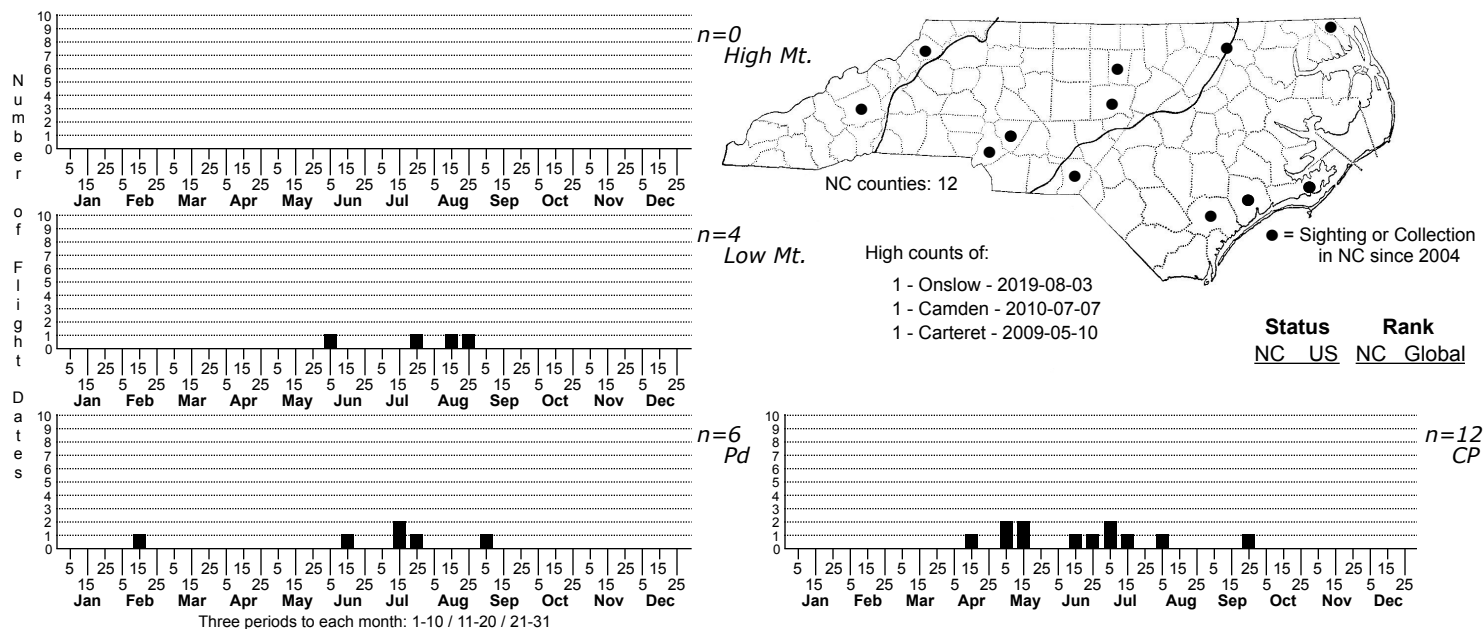


Sparganothis distincta Distinct Sparganothis Moth



FAMILY: Tortricidae SUBFAMILY: Tortricinae TRIBE: Sparganothini
 TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Powell and Brown (2012)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The adults are largely unmarked except for dark rusty brown scales that occur on the head, palps, anterior margin of the thorax, and the extreme base of the costa (Powell and Brown, 2012). The dark scales on the thorax and adjoining area of the costal base contrast with the lighter ground color in an otherwise unmarked forewing. The forewing varies from pale-rusty or orangish-brown and has light refractive scales that produce a frosted or shiny whitish reticulated pattern. The fringe is concolorous with the ground color, and the hindwing varies from pale grayish brown or pale orangish brown, with a slightly lighter fringe.

DISTRIBUTION: *Sparganothis distincta* is found in the eastern US, in portions of southeastern Canada (New Brunswick; Nova Scotia; Prince Edward Island), and as scattered populations as far west as Colorado, Arizona, and Utah. In the eastern US the range extends from Maine to southern Florida, and westward to western Texas, central Oklahoma, eastern Kansas, Missouri, and Illinois. As of 2023, we have records from all three physiographic regions, with most from the Coastal Plain.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been documented essentially year-round in Florida and primarily from March through September elsewhere. As of 2023, our records extend from mid-April through late-September, with one early seasonal record from mid-February.

HABITAT: This species occurs in a variety of habitats that include maritime communities, coastal pine forests, mesic inland hardwoods, forest borders, fields, and residential neighborhoods.

FOOD: The hosts are poorly documented, with Northern Seaside Goldenrod (*Solidago sempervirens*) and perhaps other goldenrods being the only reported hosts (Heppner, 2007; Meyrick, 1938; Powell and Brown, 2012).

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S3-S4]

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

COMMENTS: *Sparganothis distincta* is widely distributed in the state and shows no evidence of widespread declines.