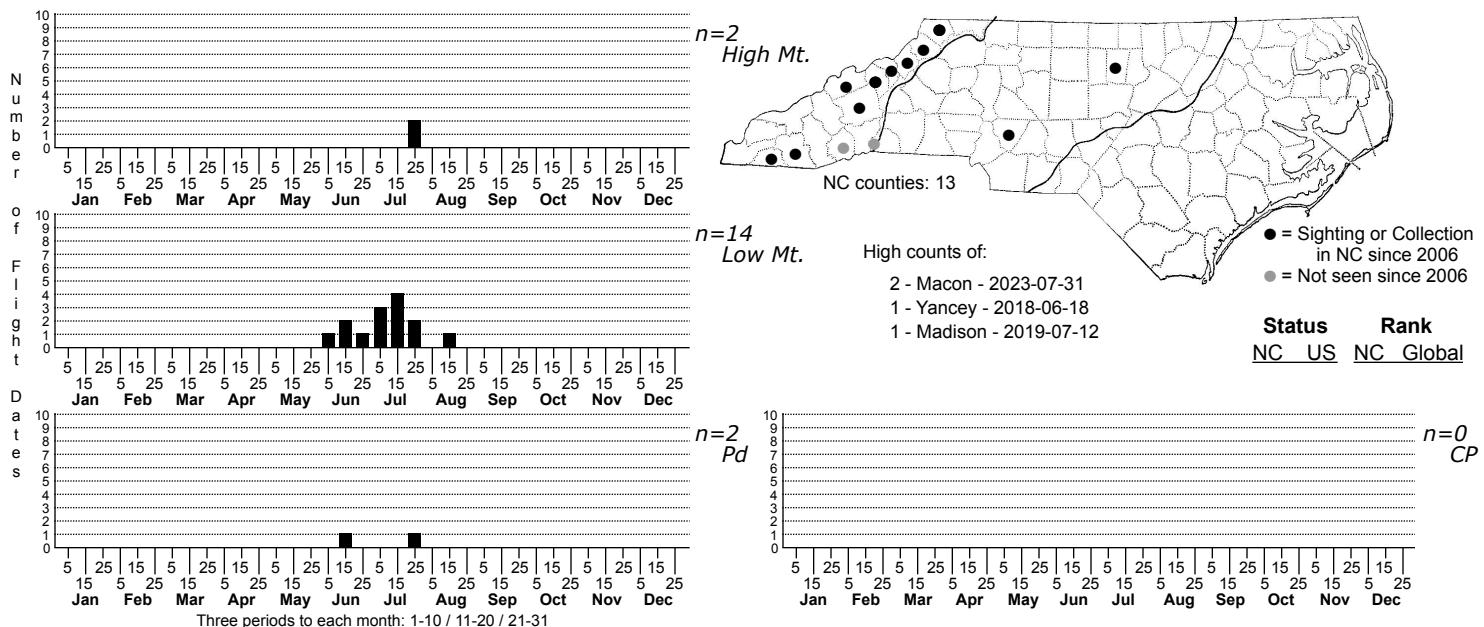


# Sparganothis xanthoides Mosaic Sparganothis



FAMILY: Tortricidae SUBFAMILY: Tortricinae TRIBE: Sparganothini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Powell and Brown (2012)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Eiseman (2022)

ID COMMENTS: *Sparganothis xanthoides* is a strongly dimorphic species. The following description is mostly based on that of Powell and Brown (2012). The head, palps, and antennae are reddish-brown and the thorax yellowish. In the male the forewing ground color is straw yellow and often has scattered light brown striae throughout. The most conspicuous mark is a contrasting, oblique, diffuse brown blotch from the dorsal margin that is about two-thirds the distance from the base to the tornus. The blotch is well defined along the inner edge and diffuse along the outer. A smaller, diffuse costal patch of the same color is present at around three-fourths, and there is a variably developed dark spot just below the costa at about two-fifths the distance from the base to the apex. A faint line of gently curved dark dots is sometimes present that extends from the subapical costal patch to the subtornal region. In the female the forewing is darker overall and often reticulated, and the pattern is similar but usually obscured by dense orangish-brown overscaling. In most specimens the blotch from the dorsal margin is extremely weak and extends to the costa about one-third the distance from the base to the apex in the form of a narrow, darker brownish line. The hindwing varies from white to brownish-white and sometimes has faint transverse striations.

DISTRIBUTION: *Sparganothis xanthoides* has boreal and cool temperate affinities. It is broadly distributed across southern Canada from the Northwest Territories and British Columbia eastward to Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. Populations occur in the eastern US from Maine westward through the Great Lakes region to Minnesota and eastern North Dakota, and southward mostly through the Appalachian region to Tennessee, North Carolina, and South Carolina. Populations occur in the West primarily in mountainous regions in the Rockies, California, and the Pacific Northwest. As of 2023, our records are mostly from lower elevations in the Blue Ridge, with two records from the Piedmont.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults mostly fly from May through August in different areas of the range, but have been found as early as February and as late as December. As of 2023, our records range from early June through mid-August, with local populations appearing to be univoltine.

HABITAT: The preferred habitats are poorly documented. In North Carolina we have records from meadows, mesic forests, and semiwooded residential areas.

FOOD: The hosts are poorly documented, but include Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) and Wild Blue Phlox (*Phlox divaricata*) (Ridgway & Gyrisco, 1959; Robinson et al., 2010; Eiseman, 2022).

OBSERVATION METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S3S4

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

COMMENTS: This species appears to be secure in the Blue Ridge, but additional information is needed on host use, preferred habitats, and abundance before we can accurately assess its conservation status.