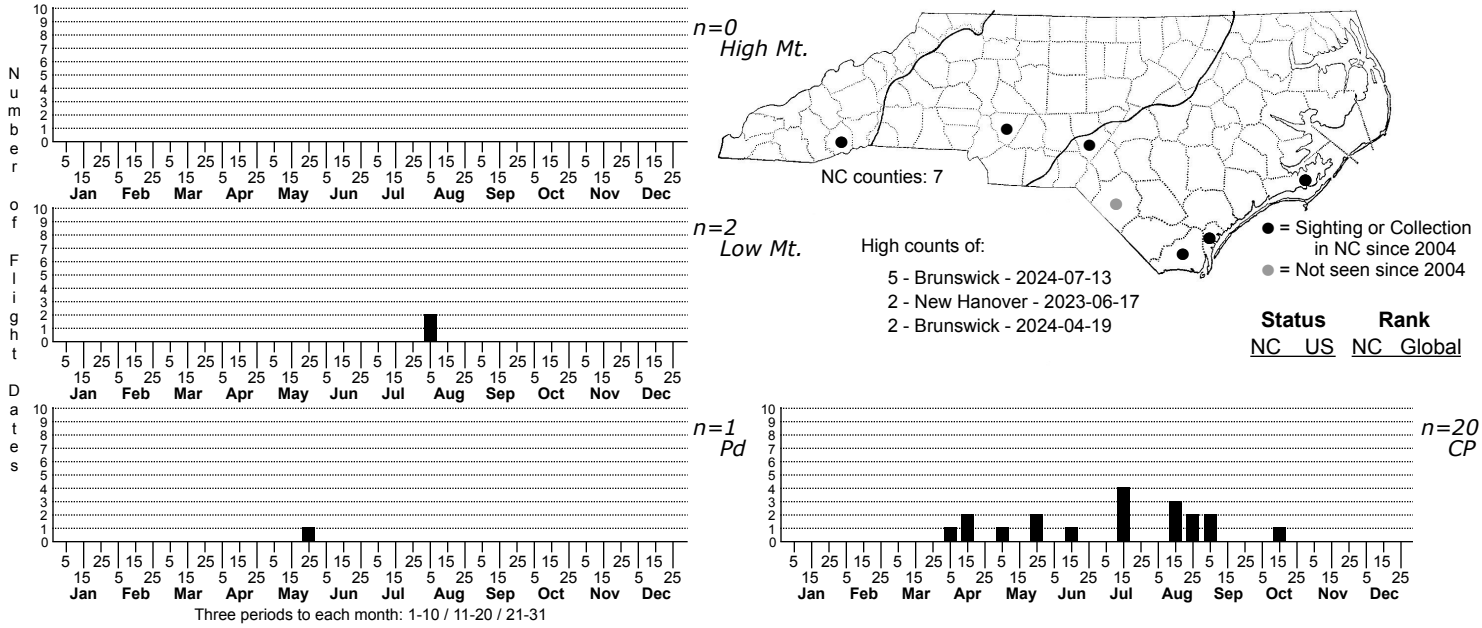
Sparganothoides lentiginosana Lentiginos Moth



FAMILY: Tortricidae SUBFAMILY: Tortricinae TRIBE: Sparganothini
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: The genus Sparganothoides consists of 32 described species that are mostly found in the Neotropics. The greatest diversity of species is in the mountains of Mexico and Central America (Kruse and Powell, 2009; Powell and Brown, 2012).

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:
ONLINE PHOTOS:
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Kruse and Powell (2009)
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Powell and Brown (2012)

ID COMMENTS: The following description is based mostly on that of Kruse and Powell (2009). The frons is white, the vertex is yellowish-white, and the antennae are pale with darker brown annulations. The forewing ground color varies from yellowish brown or golden yellow to light reddish brown, and has dark brown scale patches that are scattered throughout. Indistinct brown transverse strigulae are often evident throughout the subterminal and terminal areas. The only conspicuous mark is a dark brown to blackish dorsal blotch at around two-thirds the wing length. The blotch extends from the dorsal margin to near the middle of the wing and often appears diffuse. Its expression is variable, with some individuals lacking it altogether or having only a faint trace, and others having the blotch well expressed. The fringe is yellowish brown to golden yellow. The hindwing varies from pale yellowish white to yellowish gray or gray, and often has gray transverse strigulae throughout. The males have a costal fold at the wing base.

This species is similar to Coelostathma discopunctana, but the males of the latter lack a costal fold. In addition, Coelostathma has a small, black, postmedian dot in the middle of the wing and an outer margin that is slightly concave, which produces a more pointed apex.

DISTRIBUTION: Sparganothoides lentiginosana has southern affinities, with the main range occurring from Maryland southward to southern Florida and westward to central Texas and central Oklahoma. Isolated populations have been found in Colorado, Arizona, and Central America. As of 2023, our limited records are all from the southern Piedmont and central and southern Coastal Plain.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Populations in many areas of the range appear to have two or more generations per year (Powell and Brown, 2012). The adults have been observed in every month of the year at southern locales, and primarily from March through August in the northern portions of the range. As of 2023, our limited records are from May and from mid-August through mid-October, which is consistent with populations being bivoltine in North Carolina.

HABITAT: The preferred habitats are poorly documented. We have records from a barrier island, the edge of a floodplain, and a residential neighborhood.

FOOD: The host plants are undocumented. Powell and Brown (2012) reared larvae on Achillea millefolium, but doubted whether this species is used in the wild.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S2S3]

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

COMMENTS: This species is seemingly uncommon in the state, but additional information is needed on its host plants, preferred habitats, and distribution and abundance before we can accurately assess its conservation status.