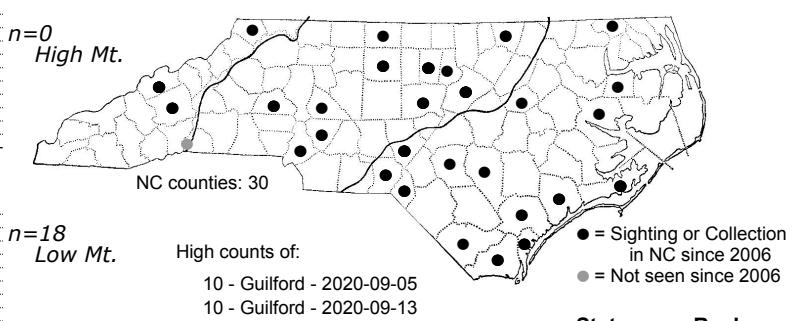
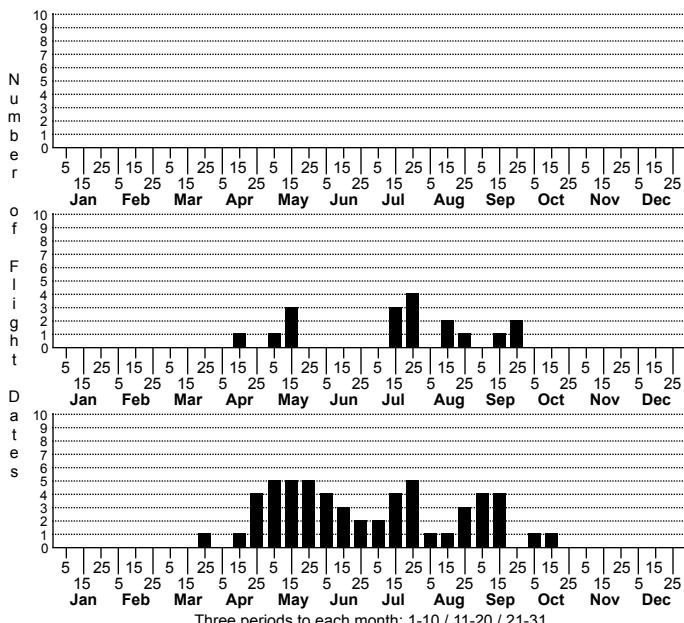


# Platynota flavedana Black-shaded Platynota



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

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Powell and Brown (2012)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: MacKay (1962)

ID COMMENTS: The following is based in part on the descriptions by Powell and Brown (2012). This species shows substantial variation between the sexes, as well as significant variation within sexes. The head and palps typically vary from rusty brown to blackish-brown. In males, most of the forewing is densely mottled with dark brown and/or dark reddish brown. The distal one-fifth differs in being pale whitish or yellowish, while the basal fifth and thorax are also lighter, but usually less so than the distal one-fifth. The hindwing is pale tan, with a distinct anal fold that is indicated by an unscaled, membranous ridge. Males are occasionally encountered that lack the densely mottled dark coloration that covers much of the wing. They have a conspicuous costal fold that extends beyond the middle of the costa.

In females, the palps are substantially longer than the males, and the forewing ground is light brown or pale reddish-brown and lacks the heavy dark mottling seen in the males. They commonly have a broad, posteriorly oblique dark brown facia that extend from the costa at around one-third to the inner margin between one-half and two-thirds. The facia often merges with a diffuse, reddish-brown blotch along the inner margin that extends apically towards the subterminal area. A triangular costal patch is also present at around three-fourth that often extends inward as a progressively narrowing band. Both the males and the females usually have a series of raised, irregular ridges that are generally most prevalent in the subterminal area.

Powell and Brown (2012) note that the males of *P. rostrana* and *P. flavedana* are often extremely similar given the broad range of variation in forewing maculation present in each. Both have extremely similar genitalia as well, with similar degrees of variation. Males of *P. rostrana* differ from those of *P. flavedana* by having complex scaling of the frons that produces a hood-like structure, and in having long orange sex scaling along the anal margin of the hindwing. In North Carolina, these species are usually distinguishable based on the wing coloration and patterning. On *P. flavedana*, the basal one-fifth and terminal one-fifth of the wing is pale whitish or yellowish and contrast with the overall blackish central region. The basal fifth on *P. rostrana* is not as noticeably contrasting with the central portion of the wing, and the wing is not heavily mottled or dusted with black. The costal triangle and associated black spot, along with a line of dark scales on the anterior of the thorax, are also useful in distinguishing *P. rostrana* from *P. flavedana*.

DISTRIBUTION: *Platynota flavedana* is a common species that is found across much of the eastern US and in Ontario and Quebec. In the US the range extends from Maine southward to southern Florida, and westward to central Texas, central Oklahoma, central Kansas, central Nebraska, and eastern South Dakota. This species also ranges south through Central America to Costa Rica and the Caribbean (Powell and Brown, 2012). It occurs statewide in North Carolina.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Local populations have two or more generations per year. The adults fly year-round or essentially so in Florida, Texas, and other southern localities. Farther north they mostly fly from March through September. As of 2025, our records are from mid-March through early November, with Piedmont and Coastal Plain populations appearing to be multivoltine and Blue Ridge populations bivoltine.

HABITAT: *Platynota flavedana* uses a variety of habitats that include hardwood and mixed hardwood-conifer forest, woodland edges, fields and fencerows, powerline corridors, roadways and residential neighborhoods. We have records from both mesic and bottomland sites as well as xeric sandhill and dune communities.

FOOD: The larvae are highly polyphagous and feed on a variety of trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants, including cultivated crops and orchard plantings (Fernald, 1882; Bottimer, 1926; Meyrick, 1938; Chapman and Lienk, 1971; Heppner, 2007; Robinson et al., 2010; Powell and Brown, 2012). The reported hosts include maples (*Acer*), pigweed (*Amaranthus*), Peanut (*Arachis hypogaea*), milkweed (*Asclepias*), *Aster*, False Indigo (*Baptisia australis*), Water-hemlock (*Cicuta maculata*), citrus, carnations (*Dianthus caryophyllus*), Yankeeweed (*Eupatorium compositifolium*) and other *Eupatorium*s, strawberries (*Fragaria*), cotton (*Gossypium*), *Hedera*, sunflowers (*Helianthus*), Common St. John's-wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), Boxthorn (*Lycium*), cultivated apple (*Malus domestica*), White Sweet-clover (*Melilotus alba*), Alfalfa (*M. sativa*), Eastern Parthenium (*Parthenium integrifolium*), Rough Cinquefoil (*Potentilla norvegica*), Carolina Laurel Cherry (*Prunus caroliniana*), Peaches (*Prunus persica*), raspberries (*Rubus*), Rhododendrons (*Rhododendron*), Roses (*Rosa*), Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), Bagpod (*Sesbania vesicaria*), Kidneyleaf Rosinweed (*Silphium compositum*), clovers (*Trifolium*), elms (*Ulmus*), blueberries (*Vaccinium*), Mullein (*Verbascum*), Ironweed (*Veronica*), and Black-eyed Pea (*Vigna unguiculata*). The documented hosts in North Carolina as of 2025 include Kidneyleaf Rosinweed, Carolina Laurel Cherry, and Dog-fennel.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights and the larvae can be observed in leaf folds or ties on the host plants.

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 is a common and widespread species in the state and populations appear to be secure.