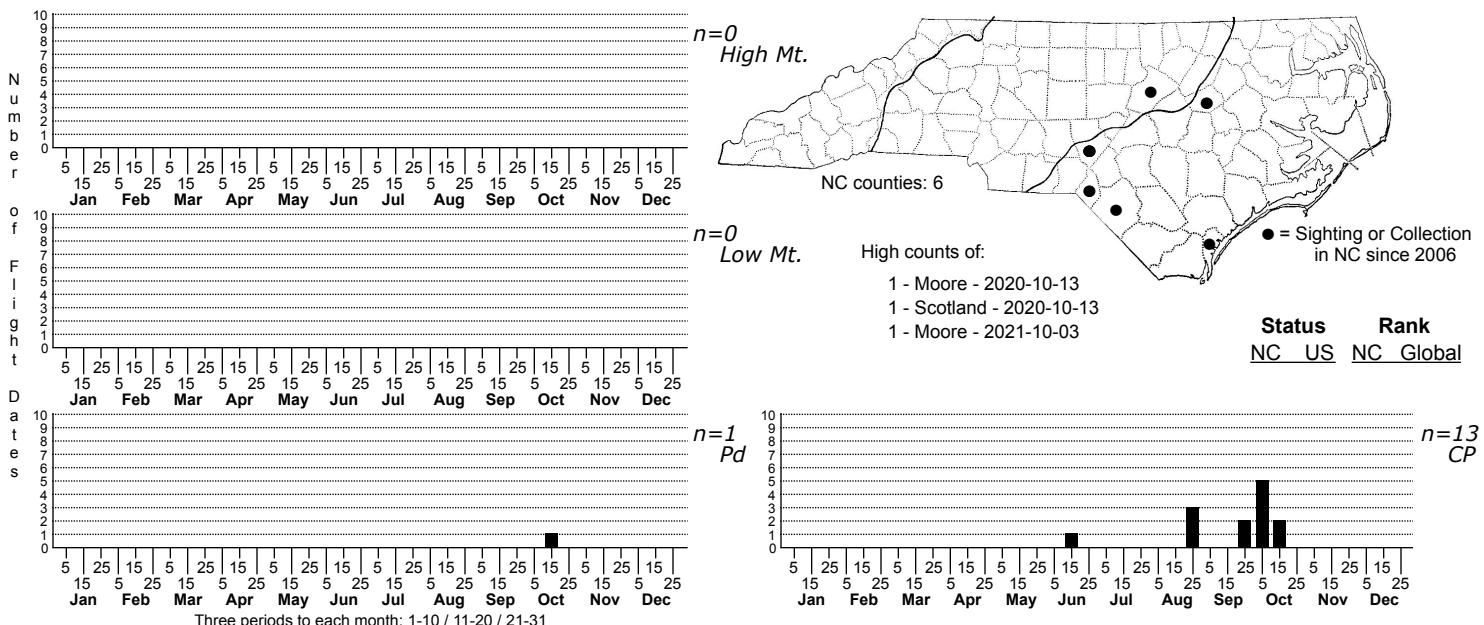


# Platynota stultana None



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

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: MacKay (1962); Powell and Brown (2012)

ID COMMENTS: The following description is based on those of Powell and Brown (2012) and Gilligan and Epstein (2014; TortAI). In this species the head, palps, and antennae are gray, while the thorax varies from gray to reddish. The ground color and patterning of the forewing differs between the sexes. In males, the forewing is typically dark brown on the basal half to two-thirds and golden brown on the remainder of the wing. In females, the forewing is a more uniform golden-brown, reddish-brown, tan or yellowish and the markings are usually less distinct. Both the males and females have a posteriorly oblique dark-brown band that begins near the middle of the costa and slants rearward towards the inner margin. It often terminates or fades near the middle of the wing. A similarly colored costal patch is present before the apex at about three-fourths. Both marks are often obscured by the dark ground color, particularly in the males. Both sexes have a series of raised scale ridges that are most evident on the terminal third of the wing. The labial palps are extremely elongated in both sexes, which is helpful in sorting them out from similar species. <i>Platynota stultana</i> is smaller than <i>P. rostrana</i> and <i>P. flavedana</i>, which are often similar in color and patterning. Unlike those species, the costal fold of the males is less than half the length of the forewing (Powell and Brown, 2012).

DISTRIBUTION: <i>Platynota stultana</i> was described from Sonora, Mexico, and may have been native in Arizona (Powell and Brown, 2012). It was introduced to several regions of the US, including California and the eastern US, and has subsequently spread widely at southern latitudes. It is now found throughout much of central and western California where it is a significant agricultural pest. Elsewhere, it has been observed from Maryland southward to southern Florida and westward across the Gulf Coast states to Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Oklahoma, and Colorado. This species is also established in Hawaii and Europe. As of 2023, our records are all from the eastern Piedmont and southern Coastal Plain.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults are present nearly year-round in California and Florida, and mostly from April through October farther north. Populations are multivoltine in many areas, with as many as five or six highly overlapping generations per year in California (Powell and Brown, 2012). As of 2023, our records are restricted to the late summer and fall months from late August through mid-October.

HABITAT: This species is commonly associated with agricultural crops and greenhouse operations, but also uses natural habitats such as coastal pine forests. Most of our records are from xeric habitats in the Coastal Plain.

FOOD: Larvae are highly polyphagous and feed on a wide range of trees, shrubs, and forbs, including numerous crop species (Heppner, 2007; MacKay, 1962; Powell, 1983, 2006; Powell and Brown, 2012; Robinson et al., 2010). They have been recorded using species in at least 28 families of vascular plants, including a large number of agricultural and ornamental host plants. Examples include apples, celery, lettuce, carnations, sugar beets, alfalfa, beans, avocados, asparagus, cotton, corn, strawberry, oranges, grapefruit, bell peppers, tomatoes, blackberries and raspberries, grapes, blackeyed peas and others (Powell and Brown, 2012). Native plants that are used are rather poorly documented but include ragweeds (<i>Ambrosia</i>), amaranths (<i>Amaranthus</i>), Lamb's-quarters (<i>Chenopodium album</i>), junipers (<i>Juniperus</i>), Mexican palo-verde (<i>Parkinsonia aculeata</i>), pines (<i>Pinus</i>), mints (<i>Mentha</i>), groundsel (<i>Packeria</i>), gooseberries (<i>Ribes</i>), and various grasses (Poaceae).

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights and are commonly collected in agricultural fields using pheromone traps.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: [GNR] SNA

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

COMMENTS: This species may have been native to Arizona, but became adapted to feeding on a wide variety of crop species and has now spread far beyond its point of origin (Powell and Brown, 2012). It is considered to be an exotic invader in North Carolina.