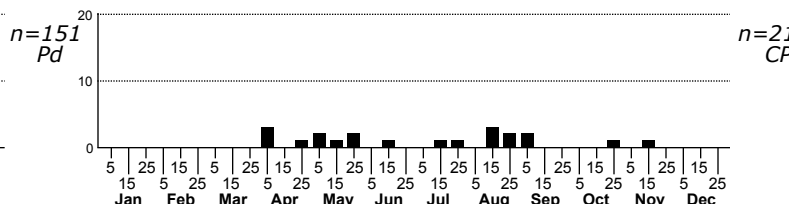
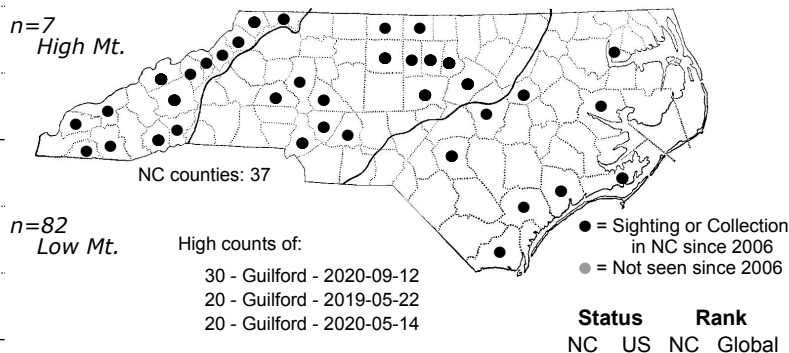
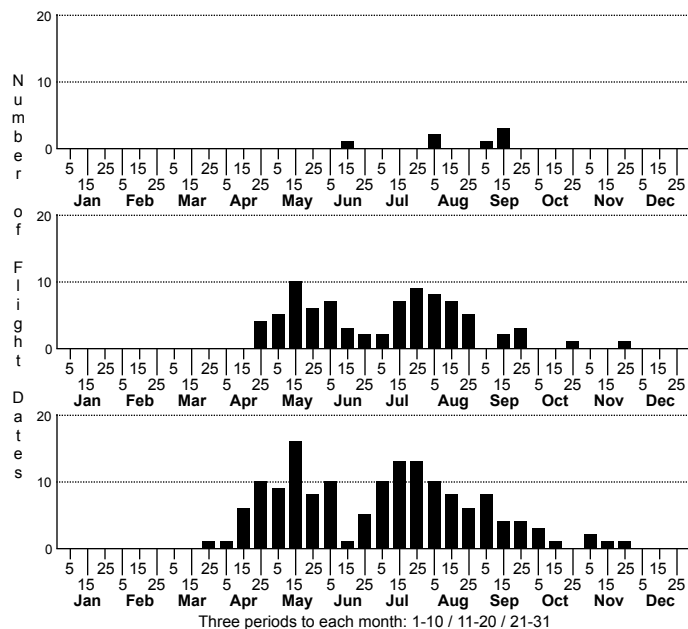


# *Platynota idaeusalis* Tufted Apple Bud Moth



FAMILY: Tortricidae SUBFAMILY: Tortricinae TRIBE: Sparganothini  
TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984); Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Powell and Brown (2012)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: MacKay (1962)

ID COMMENTS: The following description is based primarily on that of Forbes (1923) and Powell and Brown (2012). The vertex and labial palps are usually ashy gray, but sometimes rusty gray in the males. The female forewing is distinctive in having a narrow, often blackish, posteriorly oblique line of raised scales near the middle. The line divides the wing into a basal gray portion and a distal darker portion that often has a mixture of reddish-brown and grayish coarse mottling. Lines of raised striae are present on the distal half that are often blackish. The males are occasionally two-toned like the females, but more commonly are more uniformly colored with varying mixtures of reddish-brown to dark gray patterning. In many specimens dark gray or blackish-brown coloration tends to prevail in the subcostal region, and reddish-brown coloration on the dorsal two-thirds of the distal half of the wing. The fringe of both sexes varies from dull gray to reddish-brown, and the hindwing varies from dull gray to dull brown with a slightly paler fringe. Both the males and females have elongated palps and a dark, round blotch near the distal end of the discal cell of the forewing.

Females are easily distinguished by their two-toned wing pattern and large size (forewing length usually >9.0 mm), but the males are easy to confuse with *P. semiustana* and *P. exasperatana*. All three species have a male costal fold of similar length (less than one-half the length of the forewing), and all have extremely similar male and female genitalia that are of little value in sorting out species. *Platynota idaeusalis* males usually can be distinguished by their larger size (forewing length usually >7.0 mm) and subtle differences in forewing pattern. The males lack the white or cream scaling on the dorsum of the labial palpus, head, and thorax that is typical of *P. exasperatana*, while *P. semiustana* males differ in having a dark palp and head, and a lighter band on the terminal fifth of the wing.

DISTRIBUTION: *Platynota idaeusalis* is broadly distributed across most of southern Canada as well as the eastern US and portions of the West. In Canada specimens have been observed in the Northwest Territories and British Columbia eastward to Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. In the US the range extends from Maine to southern Florida and westward to central Texas, central Oklahoma, Colorado, Utah, Oregon, Washington and Montana. This species occurs statewide in North Carolina.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been observed during every month of the year, but mostly fly from March through October in most areas of the range. As of 2023, our records extend late March through late November. Most populations in North Carolina and elsewhere appear to be bivoltine.

HABITAT: This wide-ranging species can be found in a wide array of habitats. Examples include hardwood and mixed hardwood-conifer forests, forest edges, early successional habitats, fencerows, apple and other fruit orchards, and residential neighborhoods. In North Carolina this species is common in semi-wooded residential neighborhoods. It also occurs in hardwood forests in the Piedmont, in mesic high elevation forests in the mountains, as well as in more xeric habitats in coastal areas, including barrier islands.

FOOD: Larvae are widely polyphagous and feed on trees, shrubs, vines and forbs (Dyar, 1904; Meyrick, 1938; Prentice, 1966; Meagher and Hull, 1986; Godfrey et al., 1987; Santos-Gonzales et al., 1998; Heppner, 2007; Robinson et al., 2010; Powell and Brown 2012, Gilligan and Epstein, 2014). In the eastern United States, it is a significant pest of apples (Chapman and Lienk, 1971). The reported hosts include Box-elder (*Acer negundo*), birches (*Betula*), *Ceanothus*, *Clematis*, Roughleaf dogwood (*Cornus drummondii*), Black Ash (*Fraxinus nigra*), Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*), Osage-orange (*Maclura pomifera*), domesticated apples (*Malus domestica*), Jack Pine (*Pinus banksiana*), Carolina Laurel Cherry (*Prunus caroliniana*), peaches (*P. persica*), European Red Raspberry (*Rubus idaeus*), willows (*Salix*), Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*), nightshades (*Solanum*), goldenrods (*Solidago*), clovers (*Trifolium*), blueberries (*Vaccinium*), New York Ironweed (*Vernonia noveboracensis*), Smooth Blackhaw (*Viburnum prunifolium*), and grapes (*Vitis*). In North Carolina, larvae have been reared from Dogfennel (*Eupatorium capillifolium*) and Sourwood (*Oxydendrum arboreum*).

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights and pheromone traps.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S4S5

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

COMMENTS: Populations are widespread and common in North Carolina and appear to be secure.