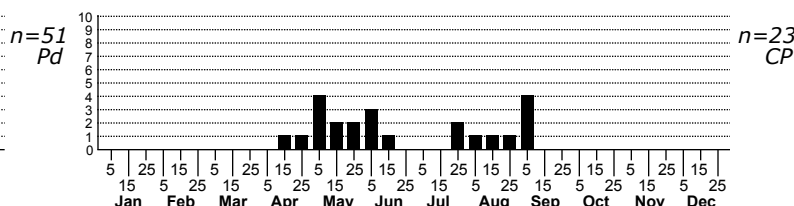
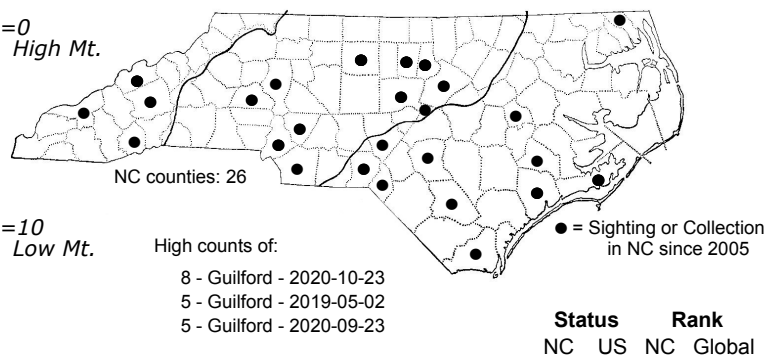
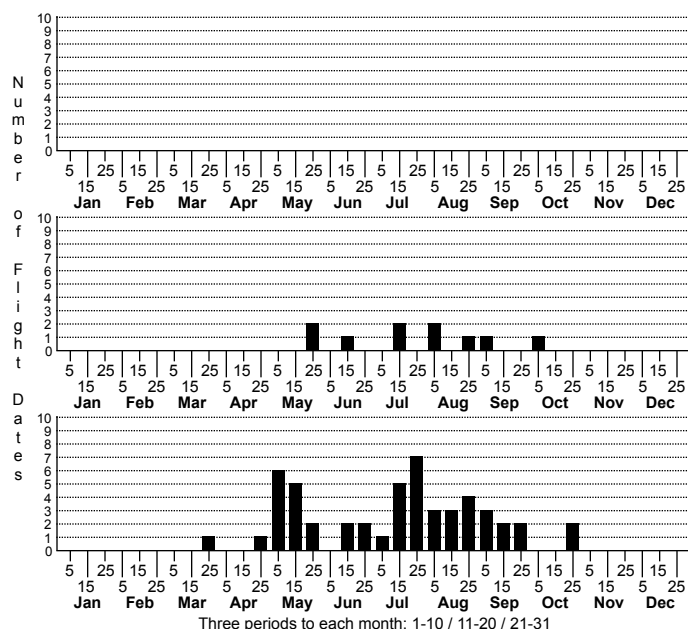


# *Platynota semiustana* Singed Platynota



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

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Powell and Brown (2012)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The following description is based primarily on the description by Powell and Brown (2012). Males and females differ somewhat in their coloration and patterning. In males the palps, head, and thorax have blackish scales. The forewing has dark smoky gray to black coloration on the basal three fourth and contrasting dull orangish to orangish-tan on the terminal fourth. The latter often has a series of blackish striae or raised lighter ridges. A dark tuft of scales is usually evident along the inner margin at around one third the length from the base to the tornus, and an anteriorly oblique, narrow ridge of raised scales extends from the inner margin at around one-half inward to near the middle of the wing. The band may be black or have varying amounts of pale tan scales. Additional blackish striations are often present in the basal three-fifths. All of these marks on the basal three-fourths may be largely obscured in very dark specimens. Females are generally similar but frequently have more red-brown scaling on the forewing and less contrast between the terminal fourth and the basal three-fourths of the wing. The labial palps also are conspicuously longer than the palps of the males. The males have a short costal fold that is less than half the wing length, and a complex hood-like structure on the head. The hindwings of both sexes are brown with a concolorous fringe.

DISTRIBUTION: *Platynota semiustana* is found throughout most of the eastern US and in adjoining areas of southern Canada (Ontario; Quebec; Nova Scotia). In the US the range extends from Maine southward to southern Florida, and westward to central Texas, central Oklahoma, Missouri, Illinois, and Wisconsin. This species occurs statewide in North Carolina.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults fly nearly year-round in Texas and Florida except for the coldest winter months. Elsewhere, the flight season primarily lasts from April through September. As of 2023, our records extend from late March through early September, with local populations appearing to be bivoltine.

HABITAT: The preferred habitats are poorly documented. Our records are from a diversity of habitats that include residential neighborhoods, floodplain forests, mesic woodlands, xeric sandhill pine forests and a barrier island.

FOOD: Host plants are poorly documented, with the only apparent record being a larva reared in North Carolina from American Pokeweed (*Phytolacca americana*) by Ken Kneidel.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

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: *Platynota semiustana* is widespread and locally common in North Carolina and appears to be secure.