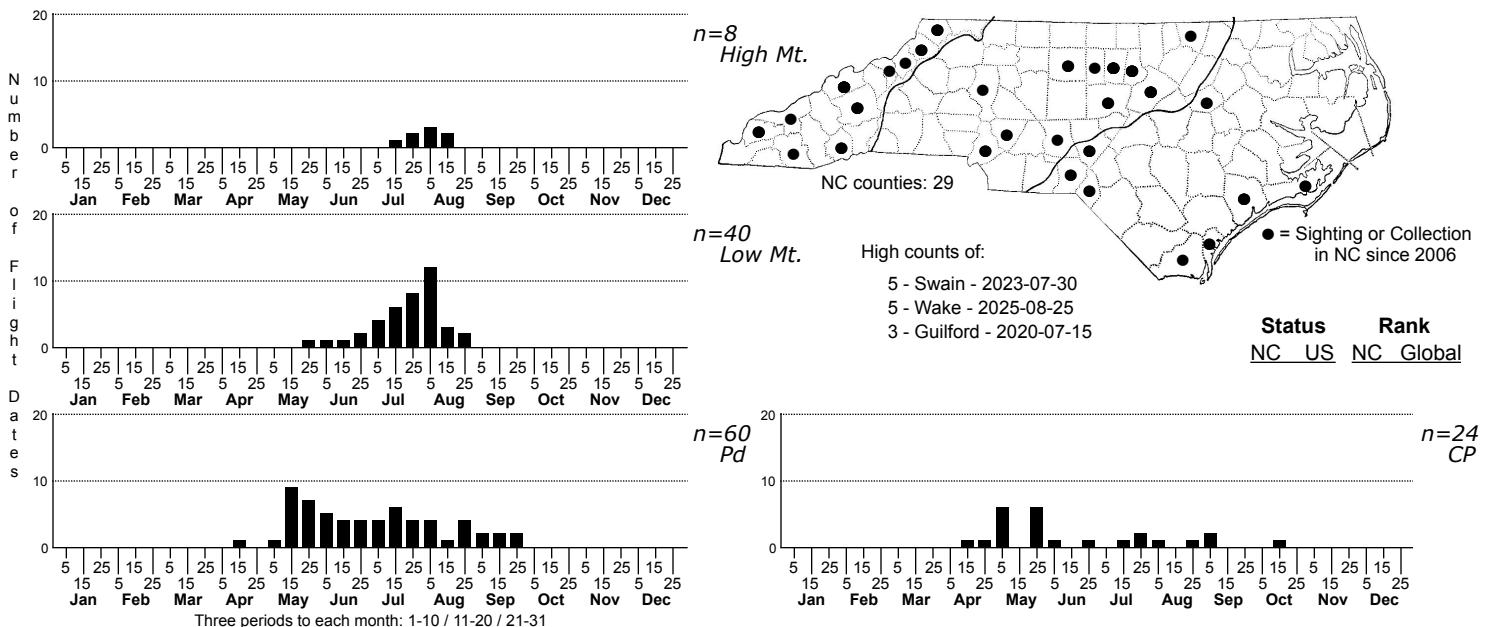


Platynota exasperatana Exasperating Platynota



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: In this species the vertex of the head and the dorsum of the labial palp are usually whitish. The thorax is mostly whitish with varying amounts of fine, darker mottling. The forewing is variable in coloration, but typically has a ground color of dark smoky gray that is overlain with numerous, blackish, irregular, transverse striae with raised scales. A small semicircular patch of pale or white scales is present at the base of the dorsal margin and adjoins the thorax when a resting individual has the wings folded. Most specimens have a dark and often vague, subapical, semicircular patch on the costa about three-fourths the distance from the base to the apex that is preceded by an irregular whitish to dull-white patch. The terminal fourth of the wing is usually lighter than the basal three fourths, with various shades of grayish to ocherous white. Males have a complex hood on the head and a costal fold that terminates before reaching the middle of the wing, while females have palps that are noticeably longer than the males.

< i>Platynota exasperatana< /i> resembles < i>P. semiustana< /i> but can be distinguished by the presence of pale whitish-yellow scaling on the dorsum of the labial palps (blackish in < i>P. semiustana< /i>), and by the presence of a white or cream-colored blotch at the base of the dorsal margin of the forewing.

DISTRIBUTION: < i>Platynota exasperatana< /i> is found throughout most of the eastern US and in adjoining areas of southern Canada (Ontario; Quebec; New Brunswick; Nova Scotia; Prince Edward Island). In the US the range extends from Maine southward to southern Florida, and westward to central Texas, eastern Oklahoma, Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota and eastern North Dakota. As of 2023, we have records from all three physiographic regions, but relatively few from the Coastal Plain.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults fly year-round in Florida and mostly from March through October in other areas of the range. As of 2023, our records extend mid-April through mid-October. Populations appear to be bivoltine in the Coastal Plain and Piedmont, and univoltine in the Blue Ridge.

HABITAT: This species is commonly found in hardwood forests or mixed conifer-hardwood forests, as well as forest edge habitats and residential neighborhoods. We have records that range from mesic hardwood slopes in the Blue Ridge to much drier habitats in the Sandhills and Coastal Plain. Many of our records are from semi-wooded residential neighborhoods.

FOOD: The hosts are apparently unknown.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR SNR [S4S5]

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

COMMENTS: This species is widespread and somewhat common in the state and appear to be secure.