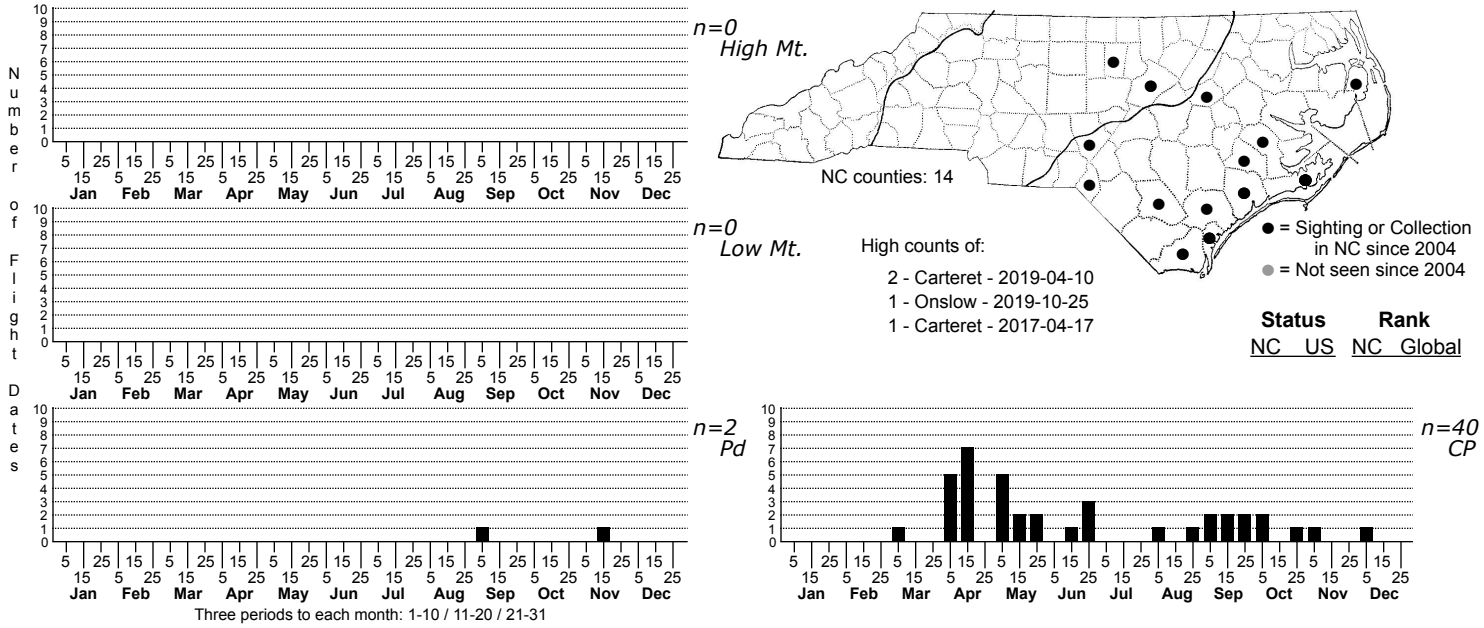
# *Platynota rostrana* Omnivorous Platynota Moth




FAMILY: Tortricidae SUBFAMILY: Tortricinae TRIBE: Sparganothini
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:
ONLINE PHOTOS:
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Powell and Brown (2012)
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The following description is based primarily on that of Powell and Brown (2012). The males and females are sexually dimorphic. The palps, heads, and thorax of the females vary from grayish to reddish brown or light brown and tend to be concolorous with the forewing ground color. The forewing ground varies from brown to reddish brown and has numerous transverse striae. The striae are typically pale colored with blackish scales associated with them on the posterior margin. Most are very short, but three are elongated and produce conspicuous lines on the wing. These include a posteriorly oblique line that begins of the costa at around one-third the length from the base to the apex and extend to the inner margin, a similar but more curved line that begins on the costa at two-thirds and projects towards the subtornal area, and a subapical line just before the apex that runs nearly parallel to the termen and extends to the tornus. Many specimens have the area posterior to the first and second lines dusted with blackish scales to produce broad, diffuse bands across the wing.

The males are smaller on average, have relatively short palps, and an elongated costal fold that extends beyond the middle of the costa. The wing color is often some shade of reddish brown and the strigulae are less conspicuous, with the three lines of the females absent. Males typically have a dark costal patch at around three-fourths and a zone of pale tan or ocherous scales in the terminal fifth of the wing that is lighter than the ground on the basal four-fifths. Males in North Carolina commonly have a small dark spot just before the costal spot and a narrow line of dark scales on the anterior edge of the thorax.

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 rostrana has southern affinities and occurs in the US from coastal areas of Virginia southward to southern Florida, then westward to Texas, Arizona, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and southern Illinois. It also occurs in central American, the Caribbean, and portions of South America. As of 2023, all of our records are from the Coastal Plain, except for one questionable record from the eastern Piedmont that needs confirmation.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Local populations are multivoltine is most areas of the range. The adults have been found year-round in southern states such as Florida, Alabama, Louisiana and Texas, with a slightly more contracted flight season farther north. As of 2023, our records extend from early April through early December and local populations appear to be multivoltine.

HABITAT: Platynota rostrana has tropical and subtropical affinities and is commonly found in the US in coastal habitats that are buffered from extreme cold. Most of our records are from sandy, xeric habitats, including a barrier island, coastal pine forests, and one record from the Sandhills.

FOOD: The larvae are polyphagous and feed on a wide variety of tropical, subtropical, and temperate species, including agricultural crops (Meyrick MS, 1938; Bruner et al., 1975; MacKay, 1962; Heppner, 2007; Robinson et al., 2010; Powell and Brown, 2012). Reported hosts that are most relevant to the US include Amaranthus, False Indigo-bush (Amorpha fruticosa), Groundsel-tree (Baccharis halimifolia), Celery (Apium graveolens), Cayenne Pepper (Capsicum annuum), Pecan (Carya illinoiensis), oranges and grapefruits, Yankeeweed (Eupatorium compositifolium), Spoonleaf Purple Everlasting (Gamochaeta purpurea), Geranium, Upland Cotton (Gossypium hirsutum), English Ivy (Hedera helix), Hibiscus, Dahoon Holly (Ilex cassine), Chinese Holly (I. cornuta), American Holly (I. opaca), Lantana, Annual Lion's-ear (Leonotis nepetifolia), Alfalfa (Medicago sativa), Mimosa, Avocado (Persea americana), Lima Bean (Phaseolus lunatus), Pyrus, Water Oak (Quercus nigra), Slender Yellow Woodsorrel (Oxalis dillenii), roses (Rosa), Senna, Bagpod (Sesbania vesicaria), Garden Tomato (Solanum lycopersicum), Sorghum (Sorghum bicolor), Spanish-moss (Tillandsia usneoides; BugGuide), American Strawberry-bush (Euonymus americanus) and blueberries (Vaccinium). Avocado has been reported as a host, which may indicate that redbays could be used in North Carolina. It could also feed on Xanthoxylum, based on records for citrus species.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights and have been reared from host plants.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S2S4

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

COMMENTS: This species can be locally common, but is generally uncommon within the state. We need additional information on preferred habitats, host use, distribution and abundance before we can accurately assess its conservation status.