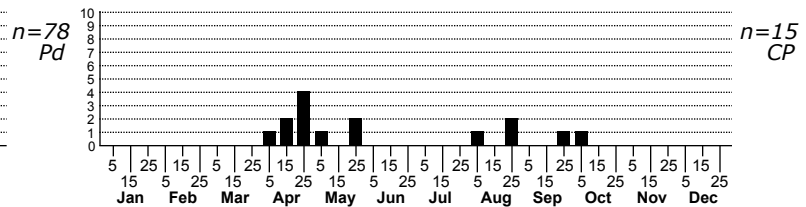
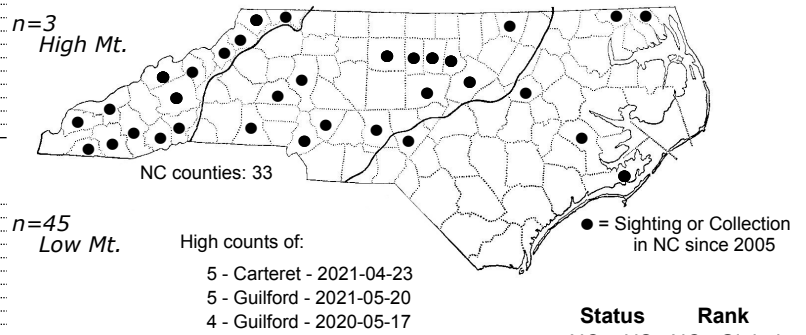
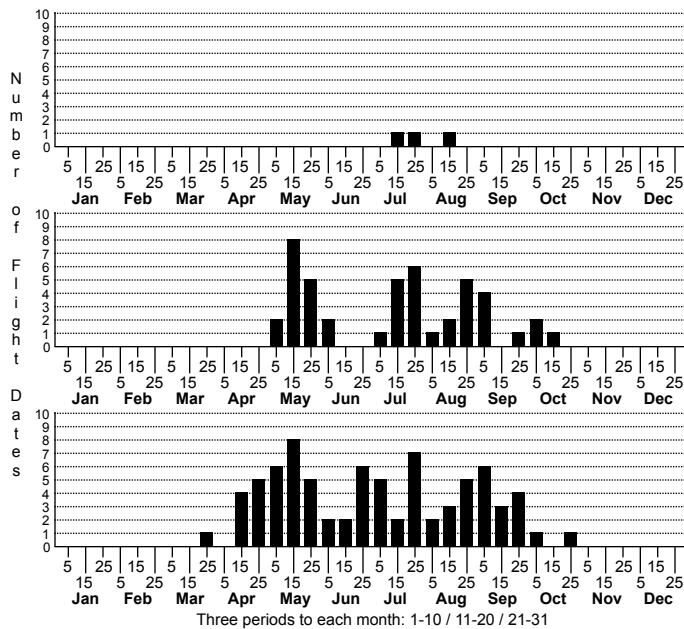


# *Coelostathma discopunctana* The Batman Moth



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

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Powell and Brown (2012)

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

ID COMMENTS: The following description is based in part on that of Powell and Brown (2012). The head and palps vary from whitish to light tan and the antennae are brown. The forewing is falcate, and the ground color varies from whitish or light tan to a darker fawn color. The ground is overlain with darker strigulae that produce a faint reticulated pattern on fresh specimens. The males have a tan-brown to reddish-brown, diffuse, median fascia that begins on the costa just before the middle and slants gently to the middle of the inner margin. The fascia is usually sharply defined on the anterior margin by a thin dark-brown line, but becomes diffuse distally. A similar, parallel line is usually present at three-fourth that curves to the subterminal region and usually has darker, diffuse shading behind it. A small brown dot is centered between the two lines at around two-thirds the wing length. Females are more variable in forewing maculation, with the ground color tan to pale reddish brown and the darker marks often obscured. The males lack a costal fold and are most easily sexed by the presence of elongated antennal sensillae that are not present in females.

This species resembles both *C. placidana* and *Sparganothoides lentiginosana*. The former usually has a small, diffuse brown to blackish blotch near the middle of the dorsal margin of the forewing and frequently has faint brownish speck-like striae throughout the wing. It can be distinguished from *S. lentiginosana* by the absence of a costal fold in the male, the presence of a small, black, postmedian dot in the middle of the wing, and by having an outer margin that is slightly concave, which produces a falcate apex.

DISTRIBUTION: *Coelostathma discopunctana* is found throughout most of the eastern US and in adjoining areas of Canada (Ontario; Quebec; Nova Scotia; Prince Edward Island). In the US the range extends from Maine to southern Florida, and westward to central Texas, central Oklahoma, eastern Kansas, eastern Nebraska, Iowa, and Minnesota. This species occurs statewide in North Carolina.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults are active nearly year-round in southern localities such as Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas, except during the coldest winter months. Farther north, the flight season is primarily from April through October. Local populations appear to produce two or more broods per year (Powell and Brown, 2012). As of 2023, our records range from late March through late-October.

HABITAT: This species can be found in hardwood forests as well as more open habitats such as woodland borders and residential neighborhoods. Our records come primarily from residential neighborhoods. Records from natural habitats include bottomland forests that are often near aquatic sites, mesic hardwood forests, and a barrier island.

FOOD: The hosts are poorly documented, but include several herbaceous species (Fernald, 1882; Forbes, 1923; Powell, 2006; Powell and Brown, 2012). The reported hosts include tick-trefoil (*Desmodium*), an orchid (*Habenaria*), Jewelweed (*Impatiens*), and cultivated strawberries. In North Carolina, Tracy Feldman reared a larva from Asiatic Dayflower (*Commelina communis*).

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: This species is widespread within the state and locally abundant. It appears to be secure.