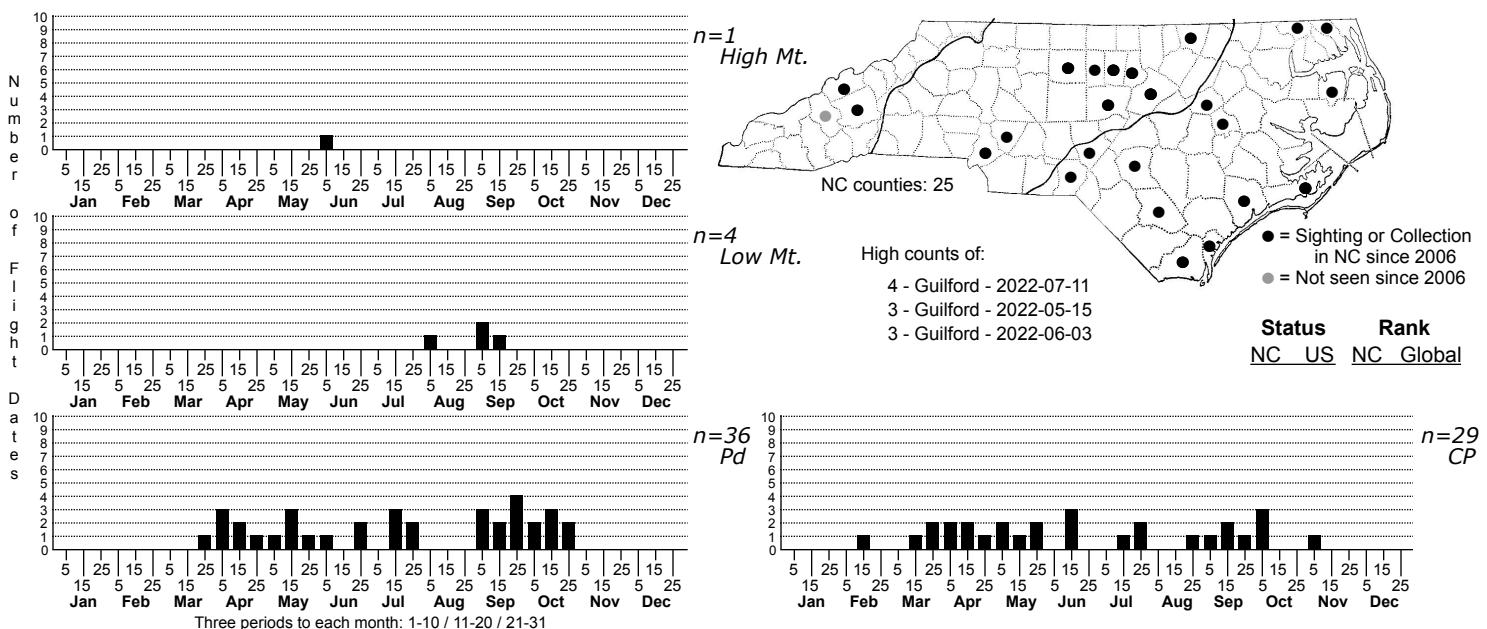


# *Tinea apicimaculella* Dark-collared Tinea



**FAMILY:** Tineidae **SUBFAMILY:** Tineinae **TRIBE:** [Tineini]

**TAXONOMIC COMMENTS:** *Tinea* is a genus of small moths that are found worldwide, with 20 currently recognized species in North America.

**FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:** Beadle and Leckie (2012); Leckie and Beadle (2018)

**ONLINE PHOTOS:**

**TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:**

**TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:**

**ID COMMENTS:** The following is based in part on the descriptions in Dietz (1905) and Forbes (1923). The head and dorsal tuft are straw yellow, and the antenna brown with faint darker annulations. The outer surface of the labial palp is brown. The inner surface and the apex are yellow, except for the second joint which is strongly roughened beneath with dark brown scales. The thorax is dark purple brown. The ground color of the forewing is dull yellow and dusted with fuscous. The dusting in the costal half consists of a well-marked dark stripe that extends from the base to near the apex. On many specimens it tends to expand or bend towards the costa just before the apex. There is a large brown spot at one-half the wing length between the dark longitudinal streak and the inner margin, and a second spot at the end of the discal cell that is sometimes masked by the dark streak. Relatively heavy dusting is also often evident along the costal margin. At the end of the wing there is a row of large dark spots at the base of the fringe that extend from just anterior to the costa, then around the termen before ending near the tornus. The fringe is straw yellow. The hindwing is uniformly lighter colored with a well-developed fringe. All segments of the legs are brown with white tips, and the hind leg is lighter with long spurs.

*Homostinea curviliniella* is similar but lacks both the large brown spot at one-half, and the row of large spots around the wing tip. *Eccritothrix guenterella* is also similar, but there are two dark basal spots instead of one, there is no dark longitudinal stripe through the forewing, and there are no dark spots along the apical margin.

**DISTRIBUTION:** *Tinea apicimaculella* is wide-ranging. The distribution is centered in eastern North America, but adults have been recorded in Colorado, southern California, Mexico and South America. In eastern North America, the range includes extreme southern Canada and the New England states southward to southern Florida, then westward to southern Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Illinois and Minnesota. Populations occur statewide in North Carolina, from coastal areas to the higher elevations in the mountains.

**FLIGHT COMMENT:** Adults have been observed during every month of the year in areas outside of North Carolina. As of 2020, we have records from February through November. Coastal and Piedmont populations appear to be multivoltine, but are single-brooded in the mountains.

**HABITAT:** Populations are frequently found in residential neighborhoods, but we have a few records from more natural settings such as state parks.

**FOOD:** The hosts are unknown, but the larvae are probably detritivores given that *Tinea* larvae of other species often feed on detritus associated with bird nests, owl pellets, ant nests, and mammal scat and carcasses (Powell and Opler, 2009).

**OBSERVATION METHODS:** The adults regularly appear at UV-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 and seems to thrive in urban settings, suggesting that it does not need protection.