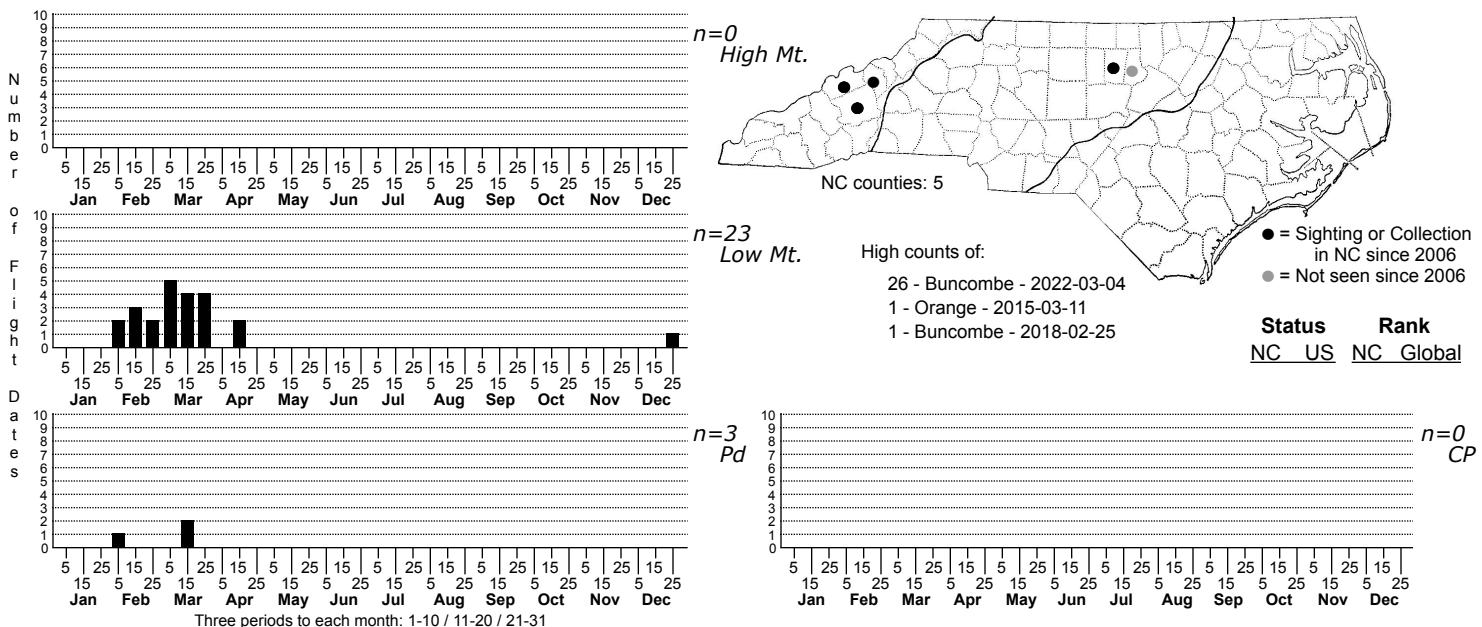


Dahlica walshella None



FAMILY: Psychidae **SUBFAMILY:** Naryciinae **TRIBE:**

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: The family Psychidae contains as many as 1,350 species that are found worldwide. The females of many species are flightless, and the larvae of all species live in constructed cases or bags, hence the name bagworms. <i>Siederia</i> is a small genus with eight currently recognized species and only one North America representative.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Davis (1964)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Davis (1964)

ID COMMENTS: The following is based in part on descriptions by Clemens (1862), Forbes (1923), and Davis (1964). The head and head tufts of the males are dark gray, and the antenna is dark gray to fuscous with slight whitish spotting. The scales of the vertex usually have whitish tips. The forewing is mottled with a patchwork of alternating light and dark marks. These are typically small, pale gray patches that alternate with dark gray to fuscous patches. There are no other defining marks, except for a better organized series of similar alternating light and dark marks that extend along the costa, around the termen, and along the inner margin. Those in the apical third of the costa and along the termen tend to be larger and more conspicuous. The cilia on the forewing are gray and increase in length from the apex to the anal angle. The hindwing and cilia are gray. The forewing is oblong and gently bowed along the termen, and the resting males hold the wings tent-like and resemble a caddisfly. The females are wingless and live in silken cases. The antenna of the female is long with 20-24 segments. The middle tibia has either one or two apical spurs, and the hindtibia has an apical pair of spurs (Davis, 1964).

DISTRIBUTION: <i>Dahlica walshella</i> is found in eastern North America where the range extends from extreme southern Canada and the New England states southward to South Carolina and Mississippi, and westward to Illinois, Michigan and Minnesota. As of 2020, we have only three site records from the Piedmont and lower mountains.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Adults have been observed from February through November in different areas of the range, with peak number occurring in March and April in most regions. As of 2020, our records are from early February through late March. Populations in North Carolina are univoltine.

HABITAT: The specific habitats are poorly documented, but the larvae appear to feed rather heavily on lichens, particularly those that grow on conifers.

FOOD: The larvae appear to be specialize on lichens, particularly those that grow on pines and hemlocks (Forbes, 1923; Robinson et al., 2010).

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights during the late winter-early spring warm-up. The pre-pupal larvae can sometimes be found on the sides of houses or other structures.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR SU

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

COMMENTS: We currently do not have sufficient information on the distribution and abundance of this species to assess its conservation status.