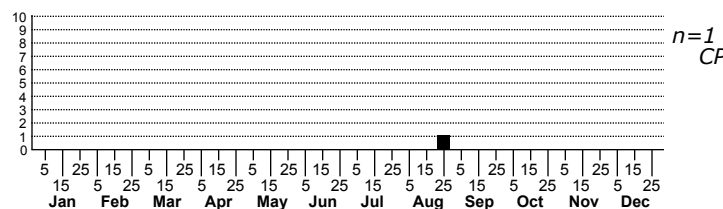
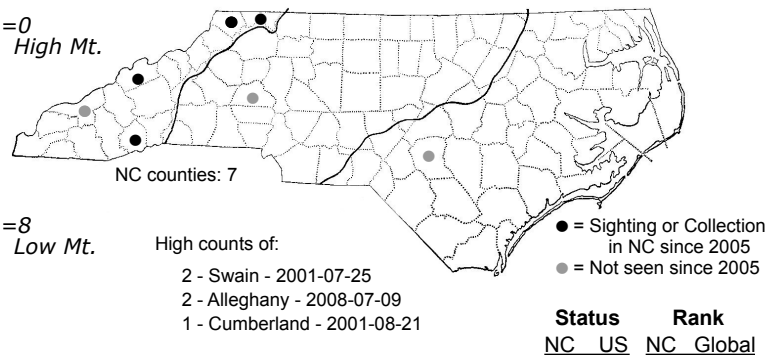
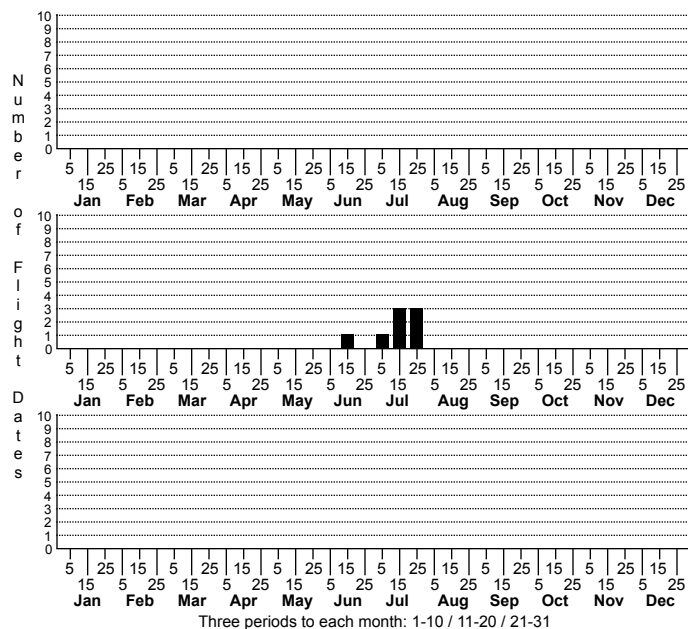


Tortricidia pallida of authors Red-crossed Button Slug Moth



FAMILY: Limacodidae SUBFAMILY: TRIBE:

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: This is one of three closely related species in this genus that occur in North America, all of which occur in North Carolina.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1923)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Wagner (2005)

ID COMMENTS: In this form the forewing varies from warm brown to light pinkish brown or pale buff. Like *T. flexuosa*, the forewing can be either unmarked or show a faintly patterned, more or less straight brown or reddish AM line and rounded PM line -- both which are typically incomplete or faint. This species is indistinguishable from the light form of *T. flexuosa* (see comments above). *Tortricidia pallida* also resembles *Heterogenia shurtleffi*. Given the degree of individual variation among both species, they also might best be considered to be largely indistinguishable from one another, with DNA analyses the only sure way to separate the adults.

DISTRIBUTION: *Tortricidia pallida* is thought to range across much of the eastern US and into southern Canada (Ontario; Quebec; Nova Scotia). The exact range is difficult to define because of the difficulty of confidently assigning specimens to species (see above). Specimens that we have assigned to this species have been found in all three physiographic regions, but are most common in the lower elevations in the mountains.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been observed from May through September in different areas of the range. As of 2023 our records extend from mid-June through late-August.

HABITAT: This and our other *Tortricidia* species are generally found in deciduous woodlands, woodland edges, and wooded residential areas.

FOOD: Larvae feed on deciduous trees such as beeches (*Fagus*), cherries (*Prunus*), oaks (*Quercus*), and willows (*Salix*; Wagner, 2005), but caution is warranted in interpreting these reports given the difficulty of correctly identifying the larvae and adults.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights to some extent.

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: Members of the *T. pallida/flexuosa* complex appear to be relatively common across the state, but because of the identification challenges, a clear picture of the status of *T. pallida/flexuosa* seems unlikely to be resolved in the near future. Although it is tempting to assign specific names to any adults encountered, given the taxonomic uncertainties it is safest to call any given individual "*Tortricidia* sp."