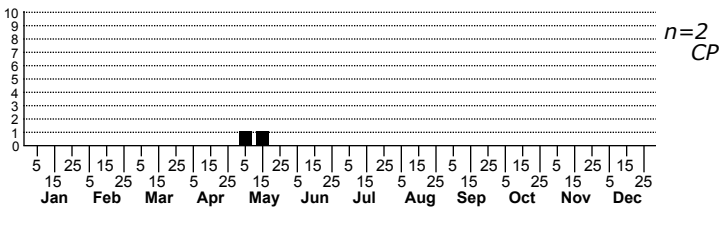
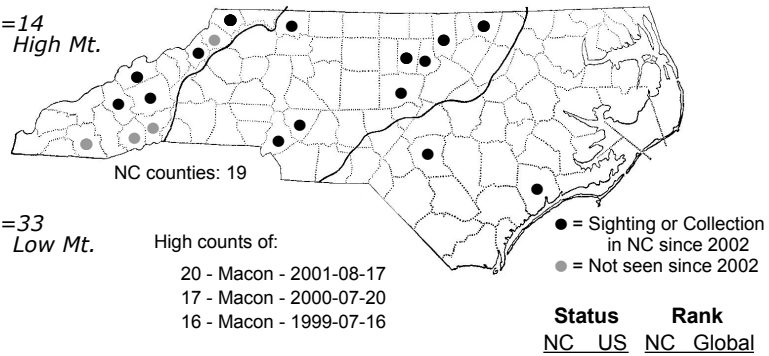
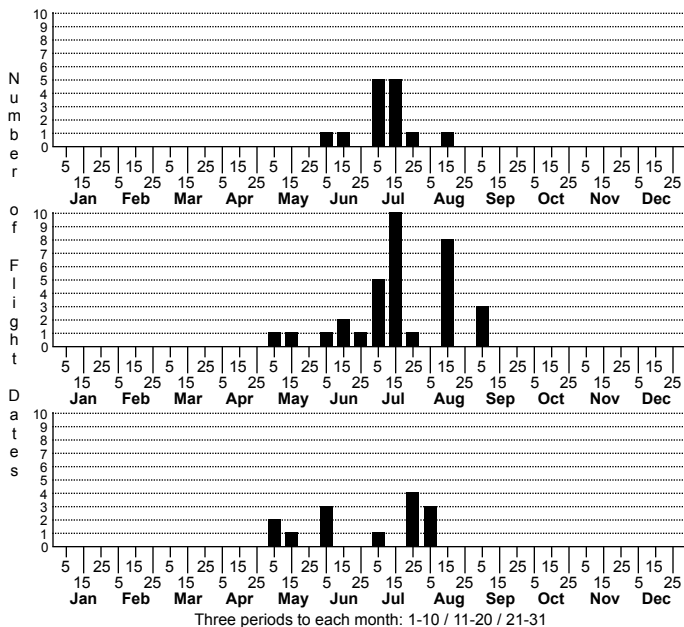


*Tortricidia flexuosa* Abbreviated Button Slug Moth



FAMILY: Limacodidae SUBFAMILY: TRIBE:

TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS: One of three closely related species of this genus to occur in N.A., all of which occur in NC. In adult form this species and *T. pallida* cannot be differentiated morphologically, even by genitalic dissection, and are generally thought by experts likely to be conspecific (Wagner, 2005).

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984); Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS: MPG, BugGuide, BAMONA

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Covell (2005)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Wagner (2005)

ID COMMENTS: Two forms with intermediate variations. Pale (typical) form has FW pale orange to pale yellow with faint to obvious, more-or-less straight brown or reddish AM line and rounded PM line, often with faint, similarly colored orbicular spot. FW sometimes unmarked. This form has the area inside the AM and PM lines concolorous with the rest of the FW. The second form has the area between the AM and PM lines partially or completely filled in with dark brown shading, typically with a pale orbicular spot (which is less obvious on the paler "dark" individuals), giving it a superficial similarity to the dark form of *Apoda y-inversum*. HW pale orange to creamy yellow and unmarked. Adults indistinguishable from *T. flexuosa*; also very similar to *Heterogenia shurtleffi*. **Larvae:** Differs only subtly from the other slug-like *Tortricidia* caterpillars. Each is pale green and oval shaped and all share broad, reddish (sometimes greenish), cross-shaped patches on the dorsum, the lateral "arms" being widest. The side "arms" on *T. flexuosa* extend only about halfway down the sides, whereas those of its congeners extend almost to the bottom edges of the abdominal segments (Wagner, 2005).

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT:

FOOD:

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: Readily attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS:

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: Like each of the other three species it closely resembles, it is probably relatively common across the state, but because of the identification challenges, a clear picture of the status of *T. flexuosa* in the state may prove elusive for the near future. Although tempting to assign specific names to any adults encountered, it is probably safest to call them all "*Tortricidea* sp."