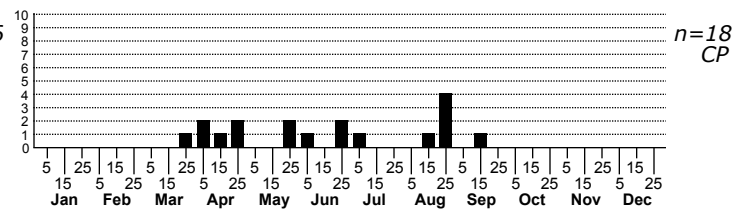
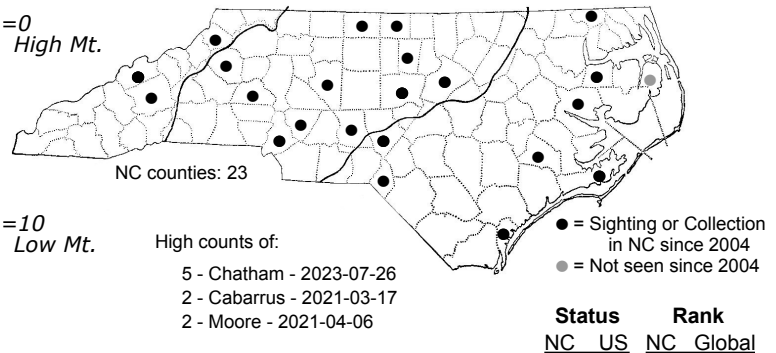
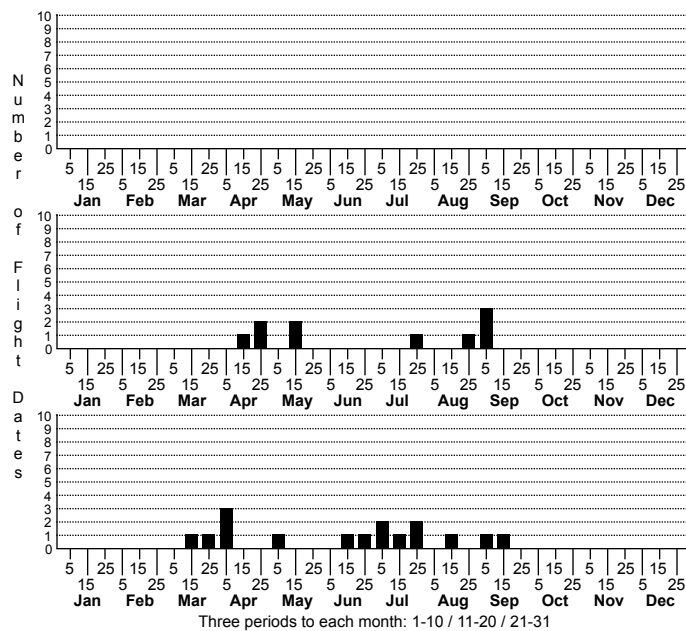


Perispasta caeculalis Titian Peale's Pyralid Moth



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Pyraustinae TRIBE: Pyraustini

TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: *Perispasta* is a monotypic genus with its one recognized species occurring in North Carolina.

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Munroe (1976)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: This is a distinctive small moth that is dark brown with a very wide forewing, a strongly arched costa and a falcate apex. The antemedial and postmedial lines on the forewing are narrow and blackish, and contrast sharply with the ground color. The males have a large, contrastingly pale or whitish fovea (dash) on the forewing that is missing in females. The outer margin is dark brown or dark gray with a conspicuous white patch near the middle. The hindwing is the same color as the forewing and has a faint, dark postmedial line. The fringe is similar to that of the forewing, but has a much longer region of whitish scales along the outer margin. Individuals typically rest with the forewing partially spread to produce a very recognizable shape.

DISTRIBUTION: *Perispasta caeculalis* is widely distributed across all of southern Canada, the eastern and central U.S., the central and northern Rockies (Colorado, Wyoming, Montana), California and the Pacific Northwest. The range in the eastern and central U.S. extends from Maine southward to Florida, and westward to central Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, eastern Colorado, Nebraska and North Dakota. This species occurs statewide in North Carolina.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been found during most months of the year in different areas of the range, with April through September being the peak months. As of 2023, our records range from mid-March through mid-September. Local population in North Carolina appear to have two or three generations per year.

HABITAT: Our records come from habitats ranging from barrier islands to mountain cove forests. Both riparian and xeric sandhills habitats are used in the areas in between.

FOOD: BugGuide has a Texas rearing record for Coral Honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*).

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights; more information is needed on the hosts and larval life history.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS:

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 in the state and inhabits a diversity of habitats, which suggests that it is reasonably secure.