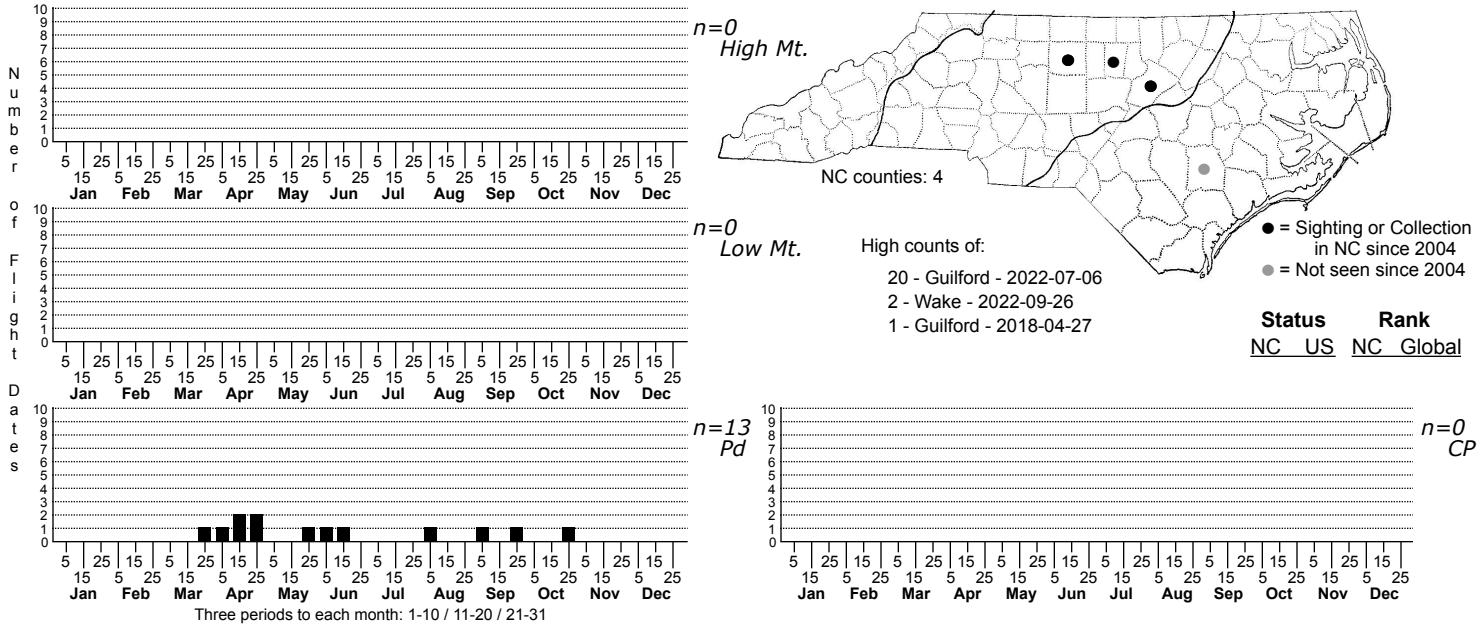
Geshna cannalis Lesser Canna Leafroller Moth



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Pyraustinae TRIBE: Spilomelini
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:
ONLINE PHOTOS:
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: McAuslane (2000)

ID COMMENTS: This is a small moth with uniform light brown to medium brown coloration on the head, thorax, abdomen, and ground of the forewings and hindwings. Both wings have matching dark brown AM and PM lines that are slightly jagged, while the forewing has a small white discal spot that is margined with a few dark brown or blackish scales on both the basal and apical sides. The adults are frequently seen resting on Canna leaves.

DISTRIBUTION: Geshna cannalis is largely restricted to the southeastern US. The range extends from Virginia southward to southern Florida, and westward to central Texas and Missouri. Specimens have been found recently as far north as New York that are undoubtedly introductions. As of 2023, all but one of our records are from the Piedmont, with one historical record from the Coastal Plain.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Populations in Florida are multivoltine with records extending from February through December. Farther north, the adults mostly fly from May through September. As of 2023, our records are from late-March to late-October. Populations in North Carolina appear to be bivoltine.

HABITAT: Local populations are dependent for cannas for reproduction and are tightly associated with sites that have patches of this ornamental plant.

FOOD: This species is only known to use species of Canna.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are often seen in the immediate vicinity of cannas and the larvae can be found in rolled canna leaves.

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: