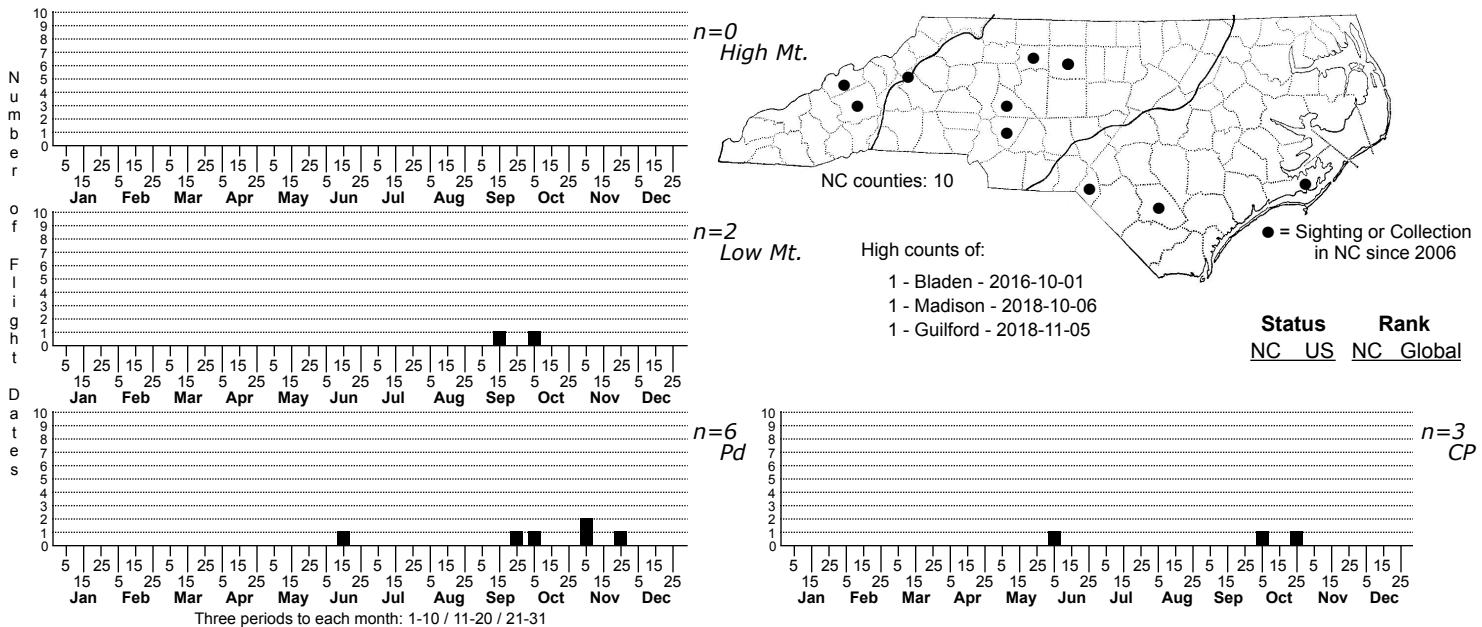


Rhectocraspeda periusalis Eggplant Webworm Moth



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Pyraustinae TRIBE: Spilomelini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: This species has a uniformly light to medium brown ground color on the head, thorax, abdomen, forewings and hindwings. The antemedial and postmedial lines on the forewing vary from dark brown to blackish, while the lunate reniform spot is of similar color. The z-shaped postmedial line extends perpendicular from the costa, then bends at a 90 degree angle inwards before making a similar bend towards the inner margin where it meets it nearly perpendicular. The fringe is buff to dull white with a darker line at the base. The hindwing has a single postmedial line just beyond the middle that is curved outward, and a white fringe with a narrow dark base.

DISTRIBUTION: *Rhectocraspeda periusalis* occurs in the southeastern US and also in Central and South America, including Brazil, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Honduras, Panama, Puerto Rico, Surinam, and Trinidad and Tobago (Hayden et al., 2013). It occurs in the Southeast from North Carolina southward to southern Florida and westward to eastern Texas and eastern Oklahoma. Isolated records also exist for Ohio and Ontario. Although this species is uncommon in North Carolina, we have records from all three physiographic provinces.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults fly year-round in Florida and from June through November elsewhere. As of 2023, we have records from early-June through early-November.

HABITAT: *Rhectocraspeda periusalis* is commonly associated with home gardens, agricultural fields and field edges. Most of our records are from residential settings, but we have two records from the Coastal Plain from natural communities, including a Long-Leaf Pine community in the Sandhills.

FOOD: The larvae feed primarily on members of the Solanaceae, particularly *Solanum* species, but on rare occasion use other hosts (Heppner, 2007; Robinson et al., 2010; Hayden et al., 2013). Reported hosts include Red Pepper (*Capsicum annuum*), Tabasco Pepper (*C. frutescens*), a strawberry (*Fragaria* sp.), Cultivated Tobacco (*Nicotiana tabacum*), Bitter Melon (*Momordica charantia*), Potato Tree (*Solanum hirtum*), Garden Tomato (*S. lycopersicum*), Eggplant (*S. melongena*), European Black Nightshade (*S. nigrum*), Turkey Berry (*S. torvum*), Potato (*S. tuberosum*), and an *Amaranthus* species.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights and the larvae can be found on the host plants.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S3S4]

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

COMMENTS: