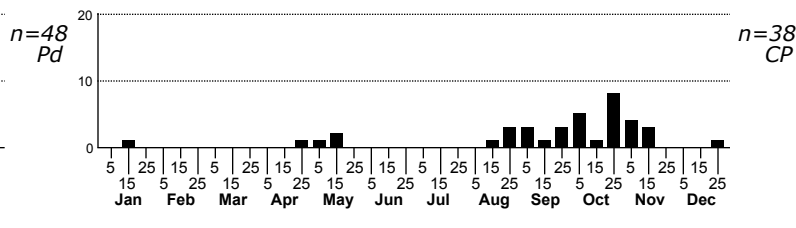
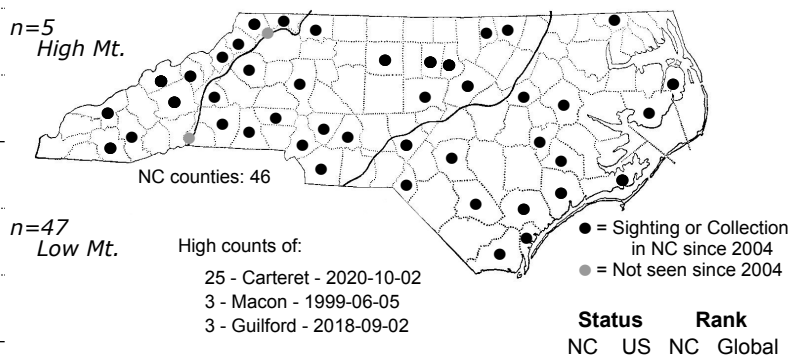
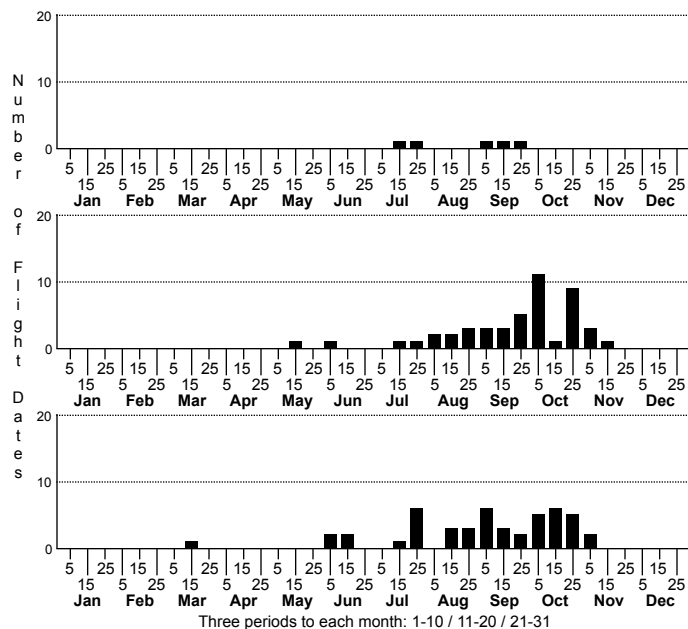


Hymenia perspectalis Spotted Beet Webworm Moth



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Pyraustinae TRIBE: Spilomelini
 TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984); Beadle and Leckie (2012)
 ONLINE PHOTOS:
 TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:
 TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Chittenden (1914)

ID COMMENTS: In this species the head, thorax and abdomen are brown. The ground color of the forewing is also brown, but with varying amounts of ochreous-yellow scales intermixed. The marks on the forewing include a squarish white spot below the costa in the middle of the wing, and a whitish to dull yellowish antemedial line that is weakly excurred and often obscure. A whitish to dull yellowish postmedial line is present at three-fourths that extends nearly perpendicular from the costa before ending a third way across the wing. It is followed by two small dots below and beyond its lower end (Forbes, 1923). The final mark is a nearly straight, but wavy, line that extends from below the squarish spot to the middle of the inner margin. The hindwing is similar in color to the forewing and has a wide, irregular whitish to dull yellow fascia that widens as it extends from near the tornus to the middle of the costa. The fringe of both wings is more-or-less checkered with white and brown marks and has a thin, interrupted brown line at the base. All of the whitish marks on the forewing and hindwing are defined with darker brown scaling.

This species resembles the Hawaiian Beet Webworm Moth (*Spoladea recurvalis*), but the latter has a much broader and pronounced median line that extends all the way to the costa.

DISTRIBUTION: *Hymenia perspectalis* has a cosmopolitan distribution, presumably due in part to introductions in certain areas of the world. In the New World, where it appears to be native, it occurs from southern South America northward to North America and the Caribbean. It occurs across much of the central and eastern U.S. from Maine southward to southern Florida and westward to southern California, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Nebraska and North Dakota. It also occurs in southern Canada from Ontario eastward to Prince Edward Island. This species occurs statewide in North Carolina.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been observed year-round in southern states such as Florida, Louisiana and Texas, and mostly from May through November elsewhere. As of 2023, our records extend from late-April through mid-November, with a couple of outliers in late-December and January.

HABITAT: The majority of our records come from residential areas and other disturbed and fragmented habitats. We also have records from less disturbed habitats such as open, pine-dominated forests in the Sandhills and eastern coastal forests.

FOOD: This cosmopolitan species is polyphagous and feeds on a wide range of forbs, many of which are weedy species, cultivated crops or greenhouse plants. They include members of the Amaranthaceae, Apocynaceae, Asteraceae, Balsaminaceae, Chenopodiaceae, Liliaceae, Leguminosae, Scrophulariaceae and Solanaceae (Chittenden, 1914; Covell, 1984. Heppner, 2007; Robinson et al., 2010; Beadle and Leckie, 2012). Host species that are found in North Carolina include Smooth Pigweed (*Amaranthus hybridus*), Spiny Amaranth (*A. spinosus*), Slender Amaranth (*A. viridis*), False Daisy (*Eclipta prostrata*), Garden Balsam (*Impatiens balsamina*), Japanese Privet (*Ligustrum japonicum*), Canada Lily (*Lilium canadense*), Alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*) and Potato (*Solanum tuberosum*).

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights and are occasionally seen nectaring on flowers.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S5

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

COMMENTS: This species has a cosmopolitan distribution and does not appear to be particularly associated with any native habitats in North Carolina.