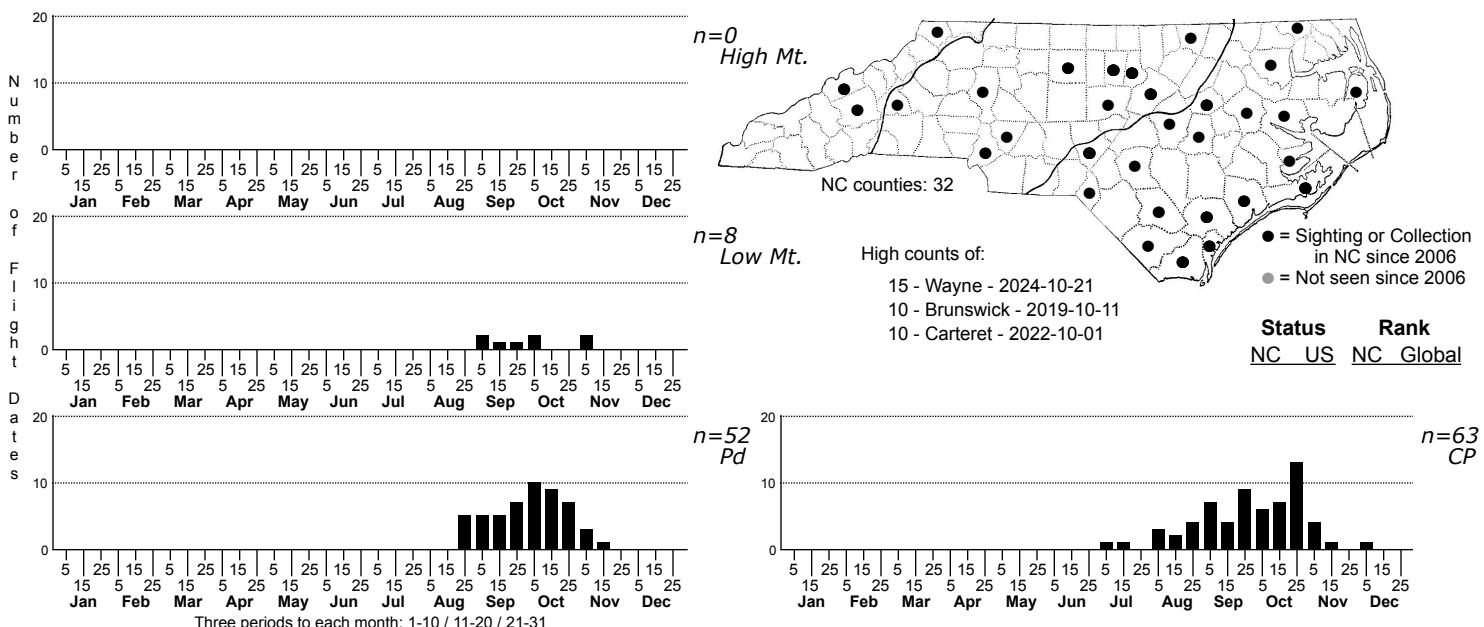


Spoladea recurvalis Hawaiian Beet Webworm Moth



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:

ID COMMENTS: In this species the head, thorax, abdomen and forewing ground color are brown. The abdomen has a white band on each segment of variable width, with the one on the first segment broader and more pronounced than the others. The ground color of the forewing is overlain with whitish marks that include a thin, straight antemedial line that is often duller than the remaining marks, and a broad median band that extends from the inner margin to the costa. There is also an abbreviated postmedial band that extends nearly perpendicular from the costa before ending a third way across the wing, and two small whitish dots just below and beyond the postmedial band. The fringe of the forewing is concolorous with that of the forewing except for a thin, dark brown basal line and two whitish spots in the sub-apical and sub-tornal regions. The hindwing ground is similar to that of the forewing, but often with a darker shade on the terminal half. It has a wide, white, median band that appear to connect to the median band on the forewing when the moth is resting. The fringe is mostly white except for a thin, dark brown, interrupted basal line.

This species resembles the Spotted Beet Webworm Moth (*Hymenia perspectalis*), but the latter has a much narrower median line that terminates near the middle of the wing.

DISTRIBUTION: *Spoladea recurvalis* is found worldwide, including southern Asia, Africa, North, South and Central America, the Caribbean, Australia, portions of southern Europe and Oceania. It has been documented in every state in the conterminous U.S., with the possible exceptions of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. It occurs in Canada from Manitoba and Ontario eastward to Nova Scotia and extreme southern Newfoundland. This species occurs statewide in North Carolina, except for the higher elevations in the Blue Ridge.

FLIGHT COMMENT: In North America, the adults fly year-round in Florida and mostly from June through November farther north. As of 2023, our records extend from early-August through early December, with a seasonal peak typically in September and October.

HABITAT: Our records come from open habitats, including from xeric to more mesic residential areas. Specimens have also been observed in natural settings with good growths of herbaceous understory plants such as Longleaf Pine communities in the Sandhills, coastal dunes and scrub, and sand rim communities around natural lakes.

FOOD: This cosmopolitan species is polyphagous and feeds on a wide range of herbaceous species, particularly members of the Amaranthaceae and Chenopodiaceae, but also many other species that are associated with early successional habitats, disturbed sites, croplands and greenhouse operations. Examples of reported host species that occur in North Carolina include garden and crop species such as beets, broccoli, soybeans, sweet potatoes, corn, black-eyed peas, and garden tomatoes. Other species include *Alternanthera*, Smooth Pigweed (*Amaranthus hybridus*), Redroot Amaranth (*A. retroflexus*), Spiny Amaranth (*A. spinosus*), Lamb's-quarters (*Chenopodium album*), *Eupatorium*, *Impatiens*, mint (*Mentha*), Marvel-of-Peru (*Mirabilis jalapa*), and Common Purslane (*Portulaca oleracea*) (Tietz, 1972; Heppner, 2007; Robinson et al., 2010). The only confirmed native plant that we have a rearing record for in North Carolina is American Pokeweed (*Phytolacca americana*).

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to light and are occasionally seen nectaring on wildflowers.

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.