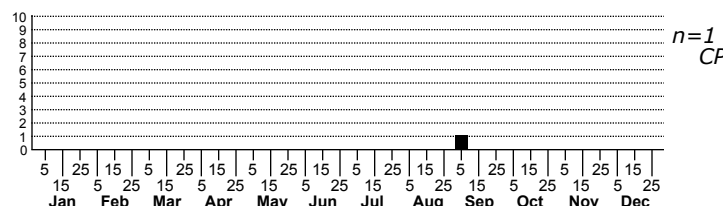
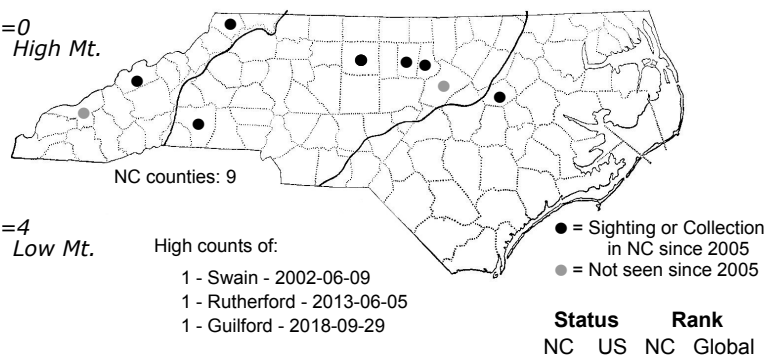
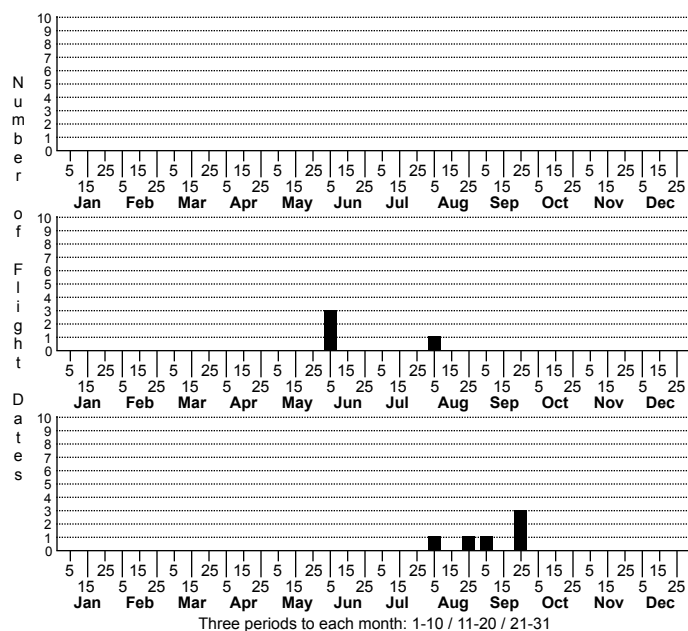


Diathrausta reconditalis Recondite Webworm Moth



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Pyraustinae TRIBE: Spilomelini
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Munroe (1956)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: In this species the head, thorax, abdomen, and ground color of the forewings and hindwings are black. The forewing has a faint dull-yellow antemedial line that contrast with the white reniform, orbicular, and claviform spots. There is an off-white triangular mark on the costa and a faint dull-yellow line (often obscure or missing) that extends for a short distance from the inner margin near the middle of the wing. The fringe is white except for a sub-tornal black region and has a narrow black line at the base. The hindwing has a narrow white line that runs from below the tornus to a more prominent white discal spot. The fringe is similar to that of the forewing.

Diathrausta reconditalis is similar to *D. harlequinialis* but the white markings on both wings are smaller and less distinct than those on *D. harlequinialis*, at least for North Carolina specimens. Some specimens may not be distinguishable based on color and pattern and require dissection. Size is also helpful, with the wingspan being 16 mm or less in *D. reconditalis* and over 18-22 mm in *D. harlequinialis* (Munroe, 1956).

DISTRIBUTION: *Diathrausta reconditalis* is found in eastern North America, including portions of southern Canada (Ontario; Quebec). In the U.S., it occurs from New Hampshire and Vermont southward to Florida, and westward to Mississippi, western Tennessee, Kentucky, Indiana and Wisconsin, with a possible geographic isolate in western Oklahoma. This species occurs in all three physiographic provinces in North Carolina, but is relatively rare in the Coastal Plain.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults fly from February through October in Florida, and mostly from June through September farther north. As of 2023, our records extend from early-June through late-September.

HABITAT: Our records are mostly from semi-wooded residential neighborhoods, but also from intact mesic hardwood forests and a mountain bog.

FOOD: The plant hosts (if any) are undocumented.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S2-S4]

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

COMMENTS: This species is rather uncommon throughout its range, as is the case for North Carolina. We need additional information on the trophic ecology and habitat preferences of this species before we can accurately assess its conservation status within the state.