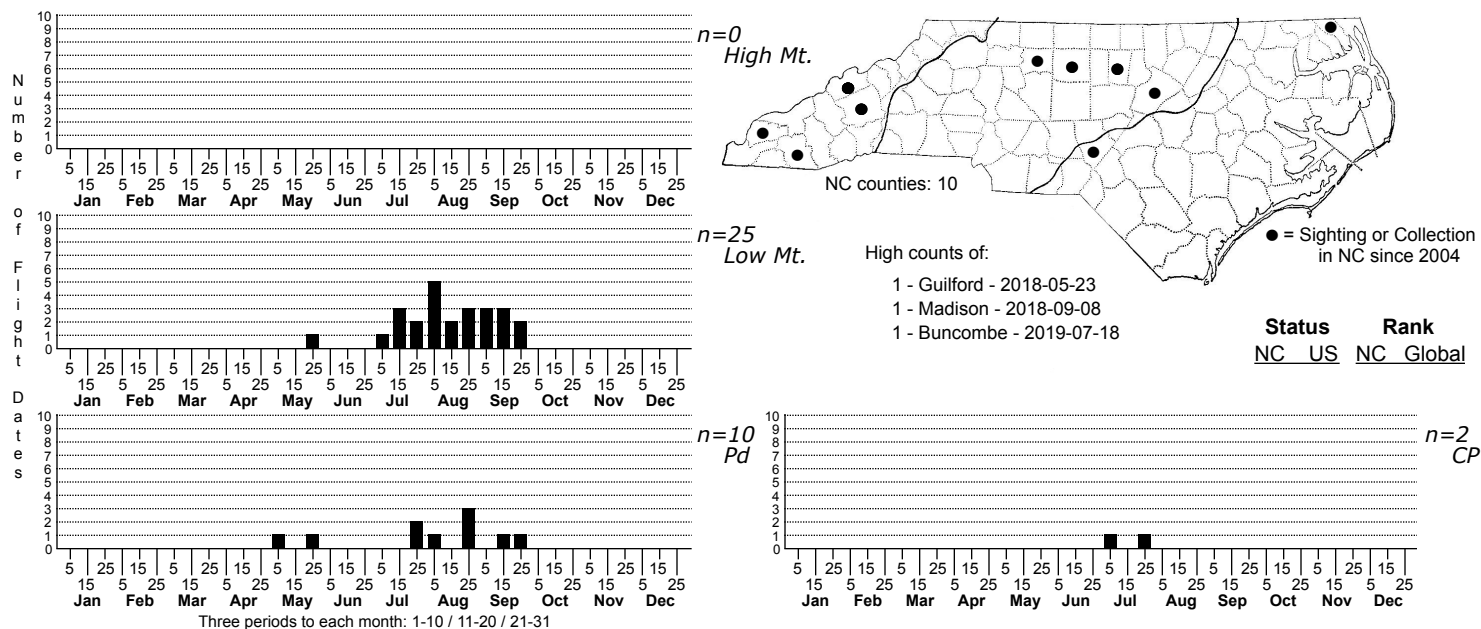


Diathrausta harlequinalis Harlequin Webworm Moth



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Pyraustinae TRIBE: Spilomelini

TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: This is a wide-ranging species that occurs from California to the East Coast and exhibits substantial geographic variation. Munroe (1956) recognized four subspecies that need additional study.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Beadle and Leckie (2012)

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. harlequinalis* but the white markings on both wings are smaller and less distinct than those on *D. harlequinalis*, at least in North Carolina populations. Some specimens may not be distinguishable based on color and patterning and require dissection. Size is also helpful, with the wingspan being 16 mm or less in *D. reconditalis* and 18-22 mm in *D. harlequinalis*.

DISTRIBUTION: As currently recognized, *Diathrausta harlequinalis* is widely distributed across the U.S. from southern Maine to southern Florida, and westward to southern California, southern Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Colorado, Illinois and Minnesota. It also occurs in southern Ontario and Quebec. As of 2023, we have records from all three physiographic provinces, with most from the Piedmont and lower elevations in the Blue Ridge.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been observed from March through October in Florida, and mostly from June through September in more northern areas of the range. As of 2023, we have records from early May through late-September.

HABITAT: Specimens have been observed in North Carolina in habitats ranging from xeric Sandhills communities to mesic cove forests in the mountains. Many are from semi-wooded residential neighborhoods.

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

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

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: