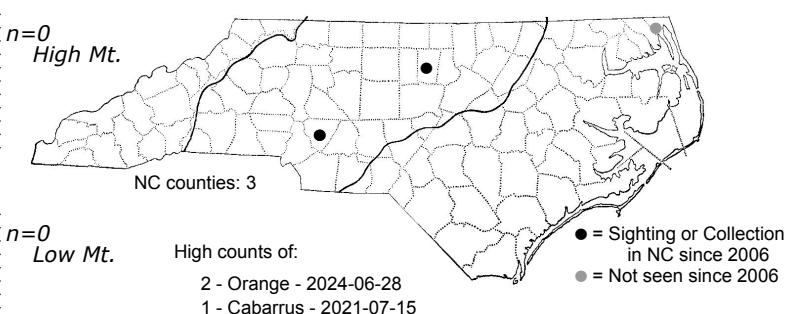
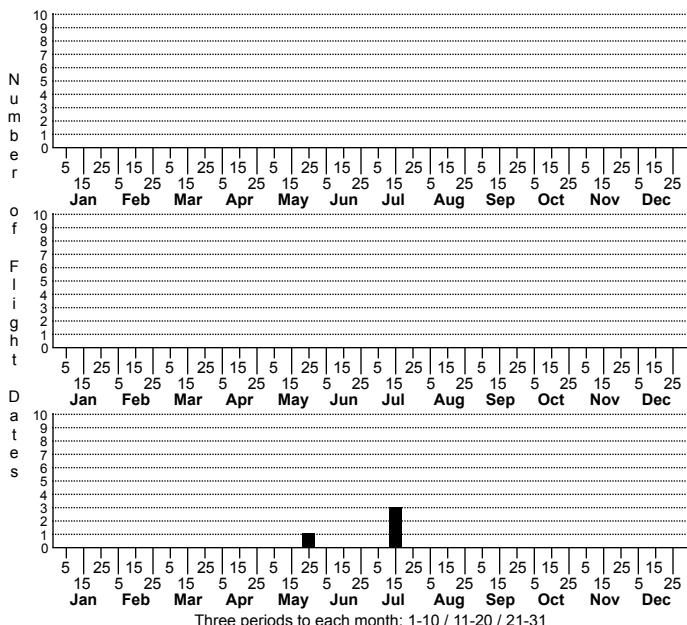


# *Lygropia tripunctata* Sweetpotato Leafroller Moth



Status	Rank		
NC	US	NC	Global

n=0  
CP

FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Pyraustinae TRIBE: Spilomelini  
TAXONOMIC COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Jones (1917)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Jones (1917)

ID COMMENTS: The adults have an overall light yellowish ground color on both the forewing and hindwing that is overlain with dark brown markings. The head, thorax and abdomen are light yellow with the former two separated by a dark-brown collar. The costa of the forewing is shaded with dark brown along its entire length, with the shading markedly widening near the apex and continuing along the outer margin where it progressively narrows before reaching the termen. A small, round, blackish orbicular spot is present, along with a larger, crescent-shaped reniform spot. The AM line extends from near the inner margin, then angles basally near the middle to the costa. The PM line begins at the costal at around four-fifths the wing length and has an outward bulge that is weakly toothed. It then projects basally a short distance before sharply angling to run perpendicular to the inner margin. The hindwing has a pattern that is similar to the forewing, but with single spot rather than two, and reduced shading along the costa and outer margin.

DISTRIBUTION: *Lygropia tripunctata* has tropical and subtropical affinities and has been documented from Brazil and Venezuela northward through Central America and several Caribbean Islands to the southeastern US (Passoa, 19??). In the US, it occurs from southern Texas eastward along the Gulf Coast States to Florida, and northward to as far north as North Carolina. As of 2024, we have only three site records that are from the eastern Piedmont and northern Coastal Plain.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: Local populations are commonly found in open or disturbed habitats, including Sweet Potato fields, road corridors and suburban neighborhoods.

FOOD: Sweet Potato (*Ipomoea batatas*) appears to be an important host, but other members of the Convolvulaceae are also used, including other *Ipomoea* species (Jones, 1917). The reported hosts include Christmasvine (*Turbina* (= *Ipomoea*)) *corymbosa* and hog vine (*Camonea* (= *Merremia*)) *umbellata*. As of 2024, we have one rearing record for a member of the *Calystegia sepium* complex, members of which are now placed in the genus *Convolvulus*.

OBSERVATION METHODS:

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: