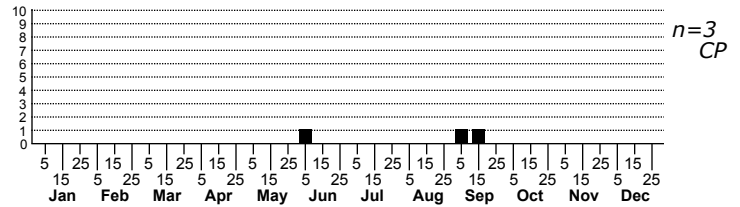
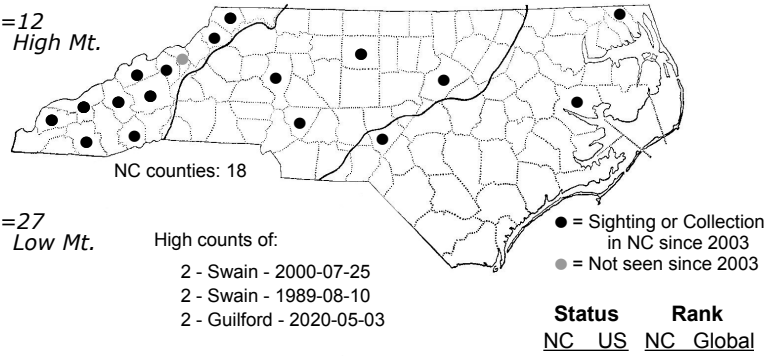
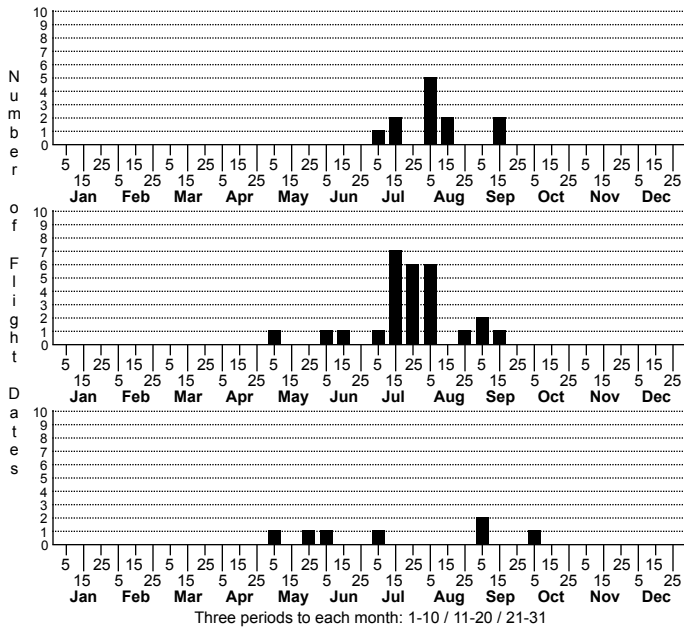


Herpetogramma thestealis Zigzag Herpetogramma Moth



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Pyraustinae TRIBE: Spilomelini

TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: Over 20 species of *Herpetogramma* have been described from North America that are based mostly on external morphology. The most recent treatment consolidates these into only nine species (Solis, 2010) and all nine occur in North Carolina.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Solis (2010)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The ground color is pale cream or whitish, sometimes with a violet or bluish iridescence (Forbes, 1923). White patches are located between the orbicular and reniform spots and between the reniform and postmedian line. The marginal shade is dark brown or beige and contrasts markedly with the paler basal area (Solis, 2010). *Herpetogramma pertextalis* is similar but with a darker ground color and markings that are finer (Forbes, 1923).

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT:

FOOD: Although poorly documented, *H. thestealis* appears to be polyphagous (Handfield and Handfield, 2011; Robinson et al., 2010). It has been found associated with American Spikenard (*Aralia racemosa*), Coastal Sweet-pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*), hazelnut (*Corylus* sp.), Mountain Silverbell (*Halesia tetraptera*), and American Basswood (*Tilia americana*).

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: