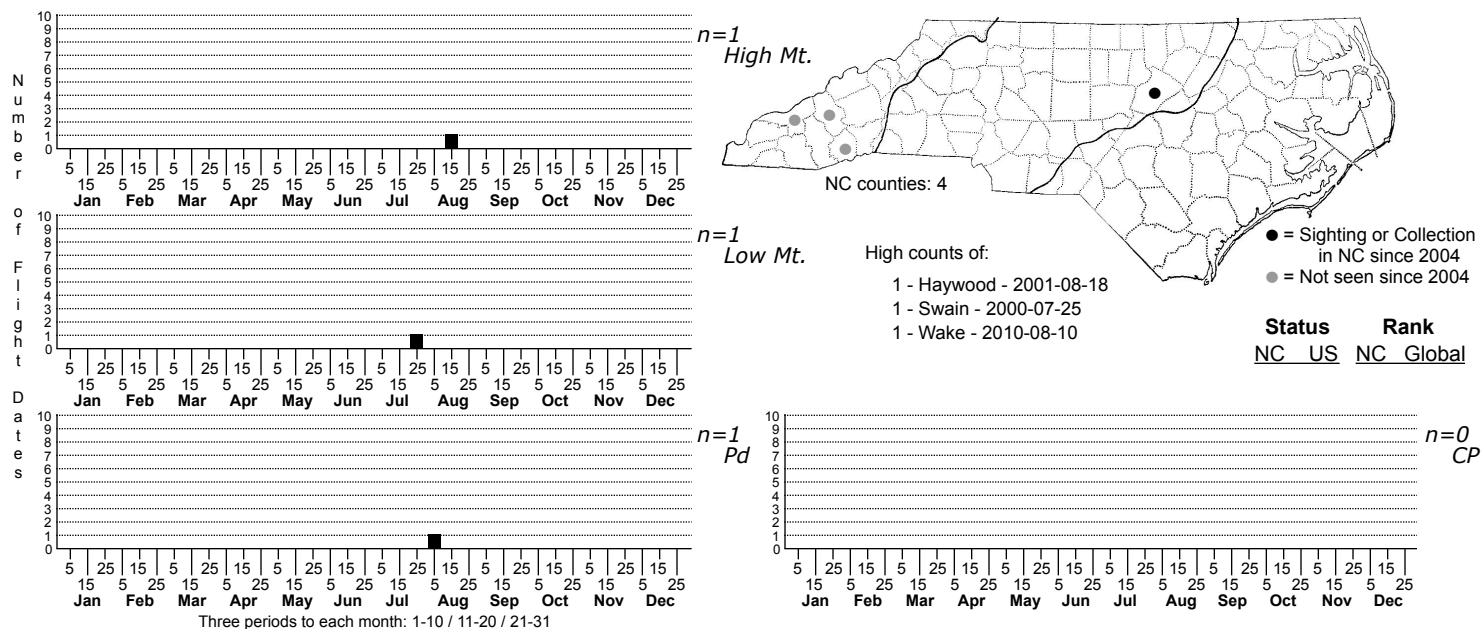


Pediasia trisecta Sod Webworm Moth



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Crambinae TRIBE: Crambini
 TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984); Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1923)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Ainslie (1927)

ID COMMENTS: The following description is mostly based on that of Fernald (1896) and Forbes (1923). The palps are light tan with a mix of fuscous or grayish scales on the outside. The head and thorax are light yellowish-tan with varying levels of gray shading. The forewing ground color is pale yellowish-tan and shaded with dull gray between the veins, leaving fine pale streaks on the veins. The gray shading is often absent or faint in the costal half of the wing to about one-half to two-thirds the wing length. The median and subterminal lines are poorly developed and often represented by blackish oblique shades across the middle of the wing. The terminal line is either missing or represented by a few weak dots that are often obsolete. The fringe is fuscous and strongly cut with white lines between the veins.

DISTRIBUTION: *Pediasia trisecta* is broadly distributed across much of the U.S. and southern Canada. This species occurs from coast to coast in Canada and across most on the U.S. from a line from South Carolina, Georgia and the Florida Panhandle westward across northern Texas to central California, then northward to the Canadian border from Washington to Maine. As of 2023, we have only four state records, including one from the Piedmont and a cluster of records from the southwestern Blue Ridge.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults fly from April through October in different areas of the range. As of 2023, our records are from a brief flight period of late-July to mid-August.

HABITAT: This species appears to rely heavily on grasses as hosts and is strongly affiliated with grassy habitats such as meadows, lawns, pastures and roadways.

FOOD: The larvae appear to feed mostly on a wide variety of grasses, but will also eat herbaceous species. They can reach high densities and cause significant destruction to cultivated corn and oats, as well as pastures, meadows and lawns (Ainslie, 1927; Heinrichs and Southards, 1970). Most information on host use is based on rearings in the laboratory. Ainslie (1927) noted that the larvae will readily eat Kentucky Bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*), Orchard Grass (*Dactylis glomeratus*), Timothy (*Phleum pratense*), Hairy Crabgrass (*Digitaria sanguinalis*), as well as oats, wheat, rye, barley and corn. They also will accept White Sweetclover (*Melilotus albus*), Sheep Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*) and the roots of clovers (*Trifolium* spp.).

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S3]

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

COMMENTS: The species is uncommon in North Carolina where it is near the southern limit of its range.