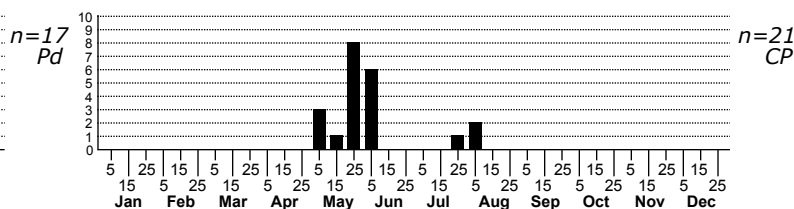
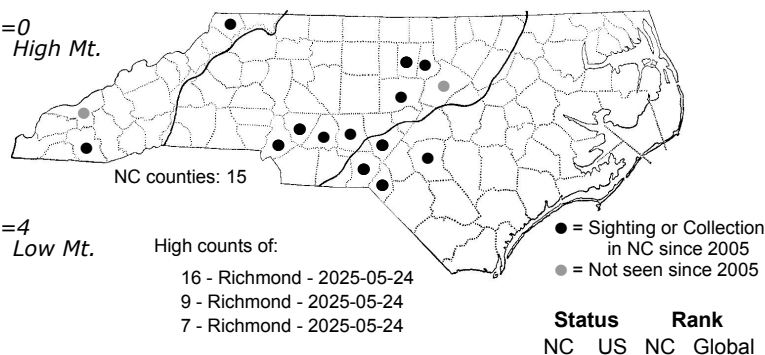
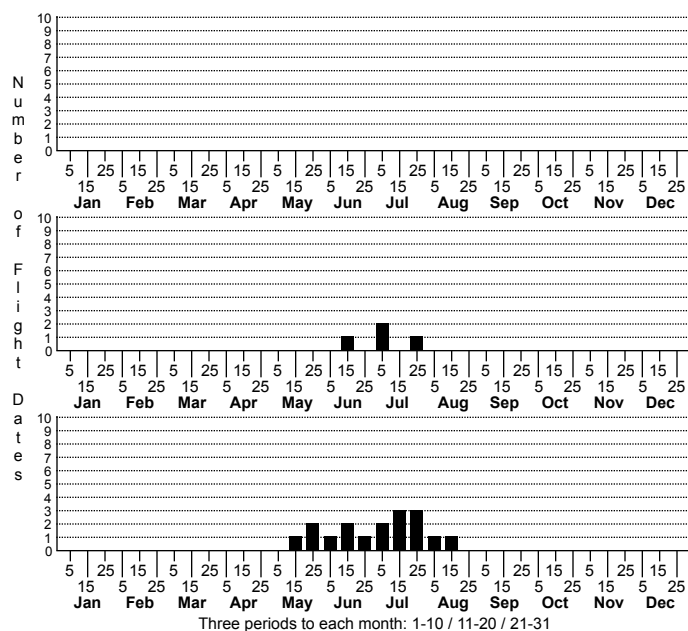


# *Pococera scortealis* Lespedeza Webworm Moth



FAMILY: Pyralidae SUBFAMILY: Epipaschiinae TRIBE: [Epipaschiini]

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: The genus *Pococera* contains a taxonomically challenging group of species with many forms that are difficult to distinguish based on external morphology, coloration, and patterning. Rearing and knowledge of the host species can be helpful in a few instances, and some species can be identified based on external characteristics. However, we find many specimens from North Carolina that are challenging to assign to species with high confidence.

The genitalia of species that have been examined from North Carolina are virtually identical and offer little help in sorting out species. DNA barcoding also offers little help since many of the established names show up in multiple BINs that likely reflect large numbers of misidentified specimens. Unfortunately, no one has any idea which of these specimens are accurately identified. A comprehensive study of North American members of the genus is clearly needed that will hopefully better delineate species boundaries and resolve some of the problems that hamper the accurate identification of specimens from within the state and elsewhere. At present, our assignment of specimens to certain species is best treated as provisional.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Allyson (1977)

ID COMMENTS:

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: Our few records come from both natural and semi-natural habitats. Most are from mesic forests but at least a few come from dry forests and one comes from a high elevation grassland.

FOOD: The larvae feed on species of hoary-pea (*Tephrosia*) and *Lespedeza*, including Chinese Bush-clover (*L. cuneata*) (Allyson, 1977; Robinson et al., 2010). In North Carolina, Tracy Feldman has reared a larva from Chinese Bush-clover.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S3S4

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

COMMENTS: