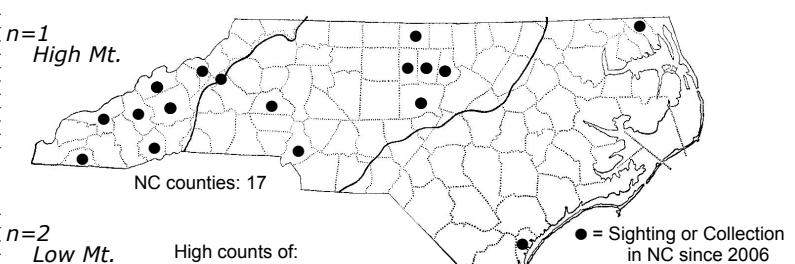
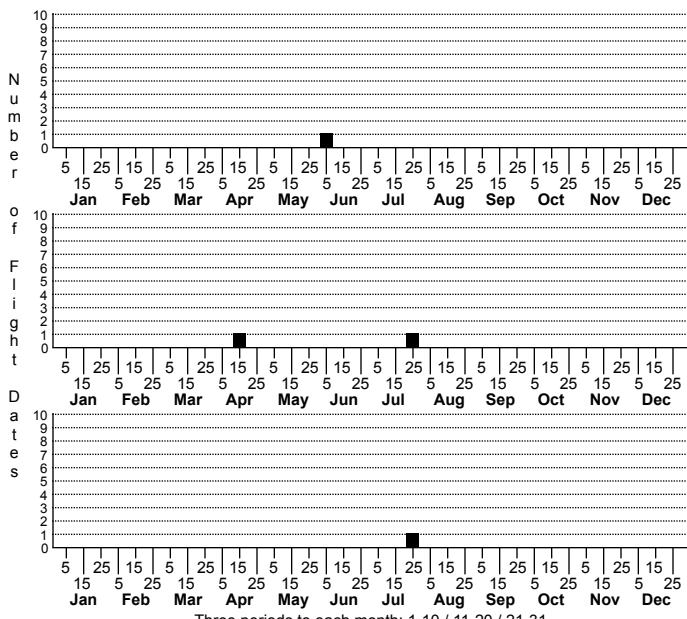


Glaucolepis saccharella None



Status	Rank		
NC	US	NC	Global

n=1
CP

FAMILY: Nepticulidae SUBFAMILY: Nepticulinae TRIBE: Trifurculini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: <i>Glaucolepis</i> is a monotypic genus with one described species, <i>Glaucolepis saccharella</i>. The wing venation is distinctive, and the males have exceptionally broad hindwings that are about as wide as the forewings.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Braun, 1917; van Nieukerken, 1986.

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Braun, 1917.

ID COMMENTS: The following description of the adults is based on Braun (1917) and Wilkinson and Scoble (1979). The palps extend beyond the labrum and are relatively long, whitish, and lustrous. The front of the head and vertex are brownish purple, and the tuft varies from brownish ochreous to entirely dark brown. The antenna extends to just under half the length of the forewing. It is brownish ochreous and broadly ringed with black to produce an overall purplish black appearance. The eye-cap varies from whitish to brownish purple, with a bluish or purplish luster. In many specimens the eye-cap tends to be whitish near the base and bluish or purplish towards the distal half. The thorax and basal fourth of the forewing are shiny, with a bright blue or purple metallic luster. The ground color of the remainder of the wing is purplish black to black. There is a rather broad shining silvery fascia just beyond the middle of the wing that broadens and curves towards the base as it approaches the dorsum. When viewed at some angles, this fascia shows pale blue reflections. The cilia is shining pale bluish, with a line of dark scales through the middle. The hindwing and cilia are gray to grayish brown, and often with a bluish luster. The male has an oval pale yellowish patch of androconia, and the hindwing is ovate and conspicuously broader than the hindwing of the female. The legs are gray with brownish patches and have a metallic iridescent. The abdomen is dark brown above with a faint bluish luster, and much paler beneath. Characters that help distinguish this species include the dark tuft and antenna, the rather dark eye-cap, the bright blue or purple metallic luster on the basal fourth of the forewing, and the broad shining silvery fascia that curves towards the base.

DISTRIBUTION: <i>Glaucolepis saccharella</i> is found in southeastern Canada (Ontario to Nova Scotia) and the northeastern US. From there it ranges westward to Minnesota and Iowa, and southward to Tennessee, North Carolina, and northern Georgia (Eiseman, 2019).

FLIGHT COMMENT: In Ohio and vicinity, there are two or three broods (Braun, 1917). Active mines are first present in early July, then again in late August. A third brood is sometimes produced in October. Individuals appear to overwinter as pupae, with the adults emerging the following May or June. As of 2020, our earliest record is from early June.

HABITAT: This species appears to rely heavily on Sugar Maple in North Carolina, which is common on mesic sites with rich soils. Representative habitats include rich cove forests and northern hardwood forests.

FOOD: Sugar Maple (<i>Acer saccharum</i>) is the primary host, but larvae are occasionally found on Red Maple (<i>A. rubrum</i>), and rarely on Florida Maple (<i>A. floridanum</i>; Eiseman, 2019). Prior to 2021, all of our records for North Carolina are associated with Sugar Maple. In 2021, however, mines were found on Florida Maple in an area of rich bottomland forest in Durham County. Mines have subsequently been found on Red Maple and an ornamental maple.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults occasionally are attracted to lights, but most records are for adults that were reared from mines on maples. We recommend searching for active mines on Sugar Maple during the summer months and rearing the adults.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S2S3

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

COMMENTS: We currently do not have sufficient data on the distribution and abundance of this species within the state to assess its conservation status.