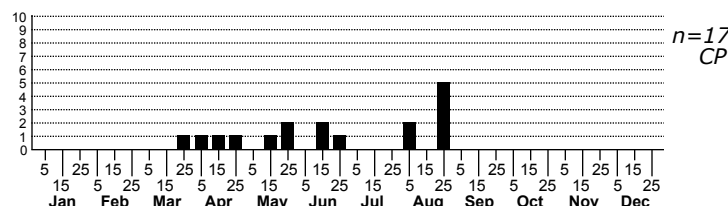
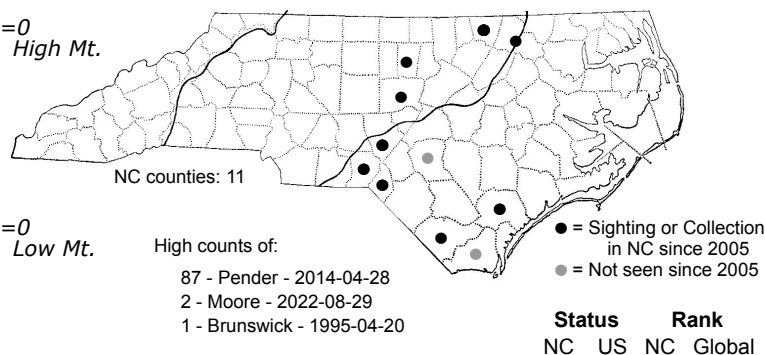
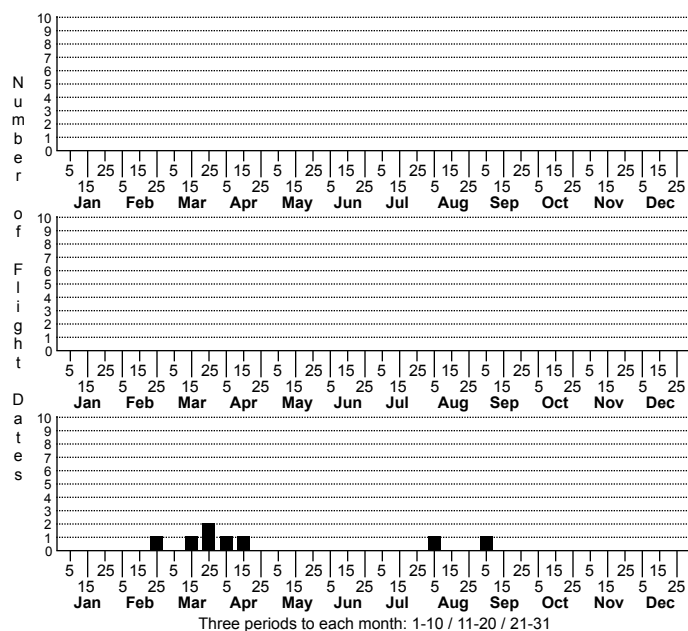


## *Tornos abjectarius* None



FAMILY: Geometridae SUBFAMILY: Ennominae TRIBE: Boarmiini

TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS: One of seven species in this New World genus that occur in North America north of Mexico (Rindge, 1954), three of which have been recorded in North Carolina

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Rindge (1954)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Early stages were unknown to Rindge (1954)

ID COMMENTS: A medium-sized, yellow-brown Geometrid with narrow, elongated wings held horizontally at rest. Sexes are dimorphic. In subspecies *calcastiatus* (the form in our area), the upper surface of the wings in males is "dark ochraceous, overlain with reddish brown, dark gray, and black-brown scales, becoming gray-black near outer margin, with median area of forewings concolorous with remainder of wing or only very slightly suffused with darker scales (Rindge, 1954). Females are more ochraceous and generally lighter. A dark discal spot with a scale tuft is present in both sexes, as are both the antemedian and postmedian lines; a line of pale gray spots may also present as the subterminal line. Hindwings are concolorous with the forewings, darkened at the base. Males can be distinguished from those of *T. scolopacinaris*, which are more gray-brown and with less contrast between the terminal area and the rest of the wing. Females of the two species are more similar but with again a more contrasting terminal area in *abjectarius*. Specimens of subspecies *calcastiatus* can usually be separated from specimens of *scolopacinaris* that occur in the same general area by the brighter and more contrasting colors, and by the more clearly defined maculation (Rindge). Generally, specimens of these two species need to be dissected to be certain of their identity.

DISTRIBUTION: Our records all come from the Coastal Plain. However, the range map in Rindge (1954) shows records only from the western part of the state.

FLIGHT COMMENT: We have records spanning most of the growing season, from March to September. There is some indication of two or more flights but we do not yet have enough records to clearly define a pattern.

HABITAT: Almost all of our records come from pond, lake, or river shorelines. One record comes from a wet Longleaf Pine savanna.

FOOD: Host plants are unknown (Rindge, 1954).

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: Appears to come well to blacklights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S2S3 [S3S4]

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

COMMENTS: This species appears to be somewhat specialized in terms of habitat, but without knowing more about its host plants, distribution, and abundance within the state, are unable to accurately assess its conservation status.