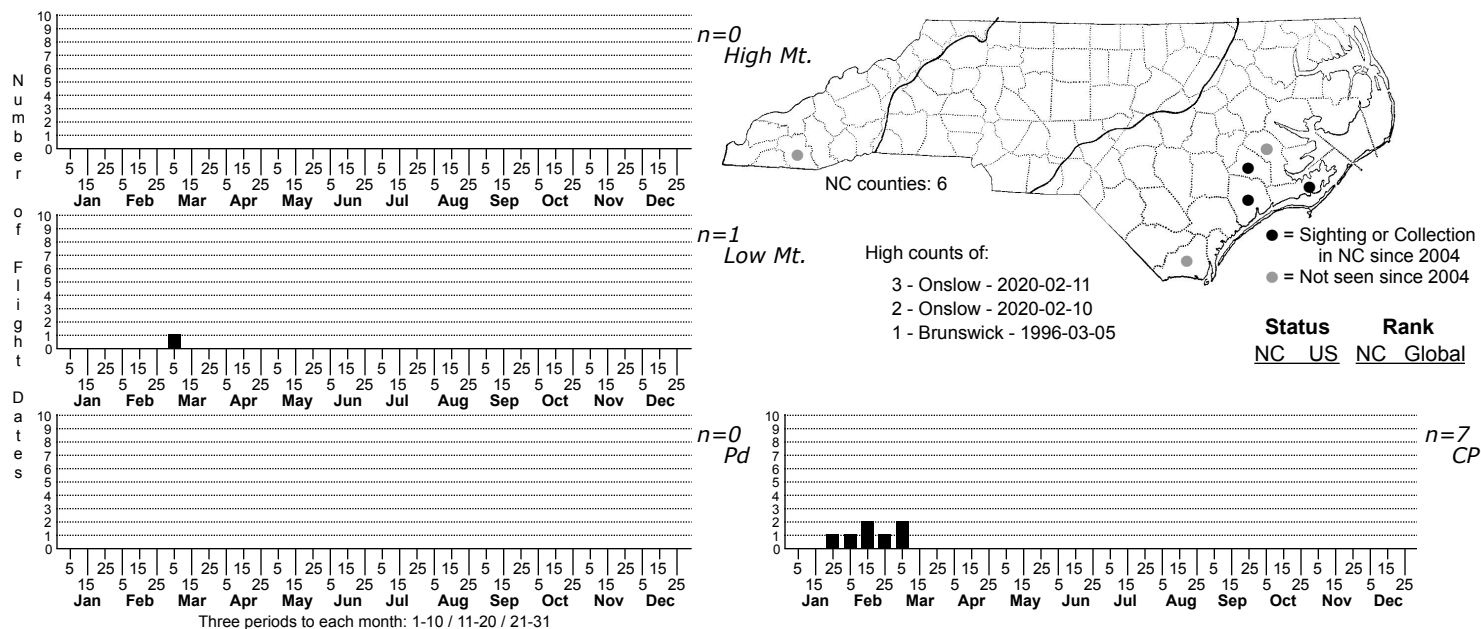


## *Ceratomyx satanaria* Horned Ceratomyx



FAMILY: Geometridae SUBFAMILY: Ennominae TRIBE: Nacophorini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: In his revision of the genus *Ceratomyx*, Rindge (1975) included 12 species from North, Central and South America. Currently (Scoble, 1999) includes only 4 species from Mexico and North America. Only *satanaria* occurs in North Carolina.

### FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Rindge (1975)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Sourakov and Stubina (2012)

ID COMMENTS: A medium-sized, grayish-brown Geometrid, with a darker median area and pale shading along the costa in the antemedian and postmedian areas. Hindwings are also brown. Unlikely to be confused in our area with any other species, particularly during its late winter flight period.

DISTRIBUTION: This species appears to be endemic to the Southeast, with its range extending from east Texas east along the Gulf Coast to Florida and up the Atlantic Coast to North Carolina (Rindge, 1975; Moth Photographers Group, accessed 2022). Rindge described it as confined to the Coastal Plain and most of our records are consistent with that statement. However, MPG shows a number of records from the southern end of the Appalachians and we have one record from Macon County that is consistent with that finding.

FLIGHT COMMENT: It is on the wing primarily in February and March but may occur earlier or later depending upon when the weather is mild.

HABITAT: Our collections all come from forested areas, but consisting of a mixture of bottomland hardwoods and wet pine flatwoods. Our one record from the mountains comes from a ridge.

FOOD: The only known host plant is Sweetgum, which was reported by Guenee in his description of the species, apparently based on a drawing by Abbot (see Rindge, 1975). There is a BugGuide record (George Smiley) of a larva reared from Sweetgum in Texas.

OBSERVATION METHODS: Males come readily to light traps, females rarely; Brou (2012) found a female for every 200 males and we have yet to see a female in North Carolina. It seems unlikely the species will respond to bait.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G4 [S3S4]

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

COMMENTS: Rindge (1975) regarded *Ceratomyx* as one of the rarer moths found in the Southeast. However, this species appears to be moving into our area from further south, a trend that may increase with global climate change. When Rindge (1975) revised the genus, he found specimens from southern South Carolina across the Gulf Coast to Texas. In spite of frequent collecting in southeastern North Carolina from 1970 to date, the first specimen turned up in Brunswick County in 1995. By 2000 it had reached Craven County and was taken there infrequently. Today there are records from Oklahoma and Kentucky on Moth Photography Group's website and the species is now routinely collected in Carteret, Jones and Craven Counties.