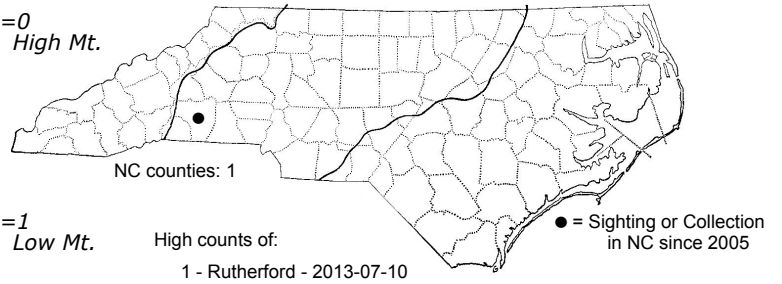
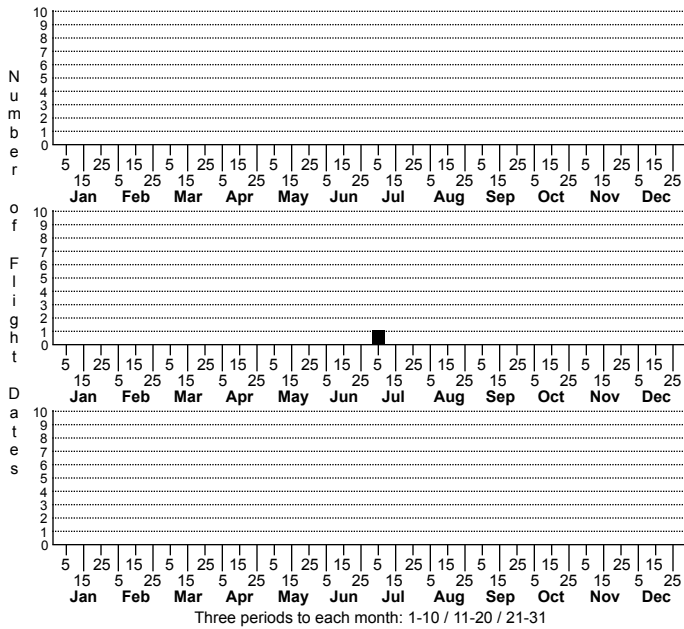
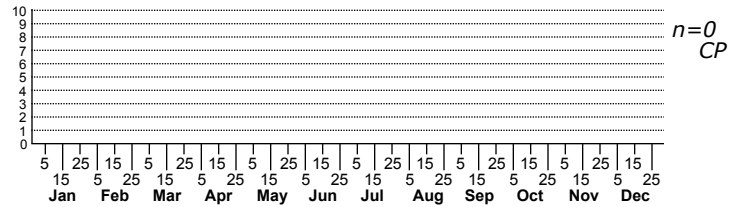


Metarranthis mollicularia None



Status	Rank
NC	US
NC	Global



FAMILY: Geometridae SUBFAMILY: Ennominae TRIBE: Anagogini

TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: One of thirteen species in this genus currently recognized as occurring in North America north of Mexico (Pohl et al., 2016). Twelve have been recorded in North Carolina.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Packard (1876; p. 485, as *Epione mollicularia*); Forbes (1945, 1948)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: A medium-sized, yellow, brown, and pinkish shaded *Metarranthis* with broad, scalloped wings. The median area of the forewings is clear, bright yellow. The basal and outer areas of the forewings and the outer part of the hindwings are shaded with rose or brown. No other species of *Metarranthis* has this combination of colors (Forbes, 1948).

DISTRIBUTION: Known in North Carolina only from the southern part of the Blue Ridge

FLIGHT COMMENT: Collected in July in North Carolina

HABITAT: The North Carolina record comes from a cedar barren.

FOOD: Host plants are apparently unknown.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: Collected using blacklights

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR SU [S1S3]

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

COMMENTS: This species was first collected in Texas and most records are from the lower part of the Midwest, including Arkansas, Missouri, Illinois, and Kentucky. Records even from that area appear to be very sparse, and the North Carolina specimen appears to be the only one known from east of the Appalachians. While its habits and host plants appear to be poorly understood, our record suggests it could be associated with dry-basic glades. In any case, it appears to be of significant conservation interest in both North Carolina and within the core of its range in the Midwest.