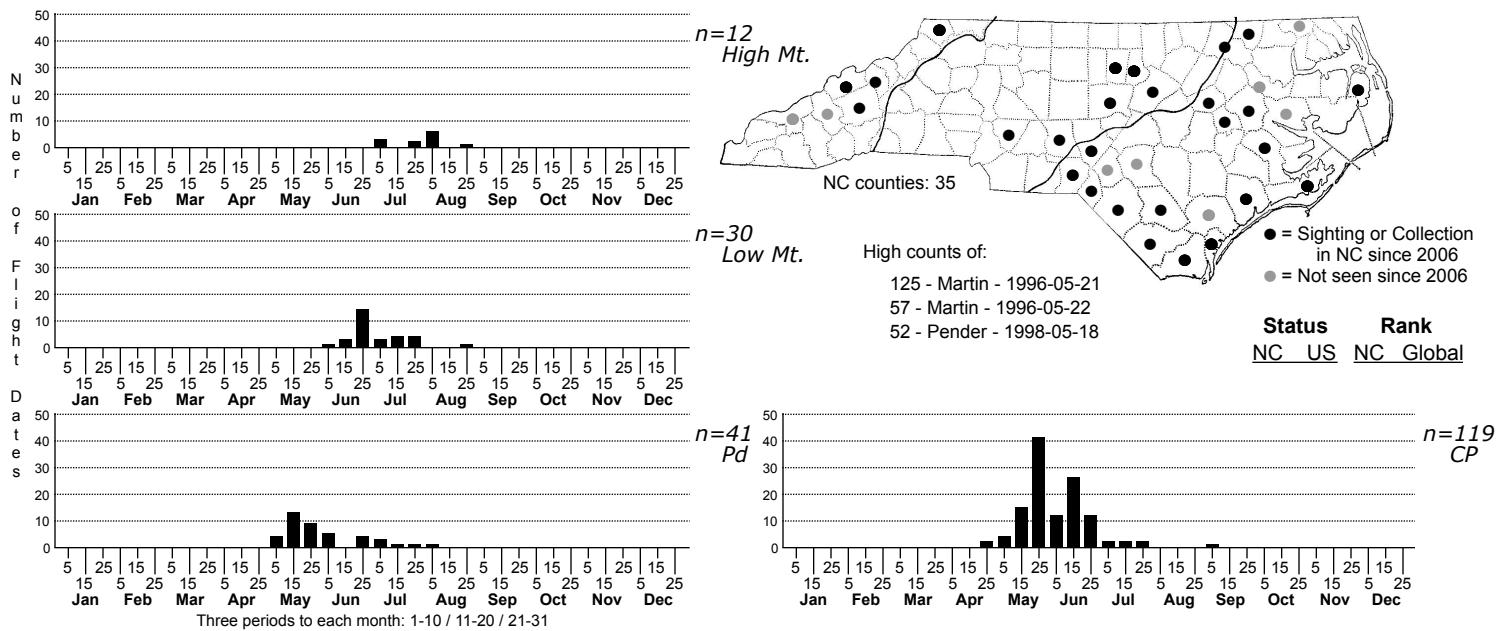


Nematocampa resistaria Horned Spanworm Moth



FAMILY: Geometridae **SUBFAMILY:** Ennominae **TRIBE:** Cassymini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of three species in this genus that occur north of Mexico (Ferguson, 2008), two of which are found in North Carolina.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984; as *Nematocampa limbata*); Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1948); Ferguson (2008)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Wagner et al. (2001); Wagner (2005); Ferguson (2008)

ID COMMENTS: A moderately small geometrid with a pale yellowish (males) or cream (females) ground color, overlain with a reticulated pattern of fine brown lines. The subterminal and terminal areas are typically dark brown, but with the apical area similar in color and pattern to the medial and basal areas. Transverse lines are dark brown and conspicuous.

DISTRIBUTION: Appears to occur statewide, from the Barrier Islands to the High Mountains

FLIGHT COMMENT: Univoltine, with adults flying in the spring and summer

HABITAT: The majority of our records come from wet areas dominated by hardwoods, including swamps and riparian habitats but not peatlands. A few records come from drier or more open habitats, such as maritime dunes, sandhills, and ridges.

FOOD: Polyphagous, feeding on more than 60 species of both hardwood trees and shrubs, conifers, and forbs (Ferguson, 2008). Wagner et al. (2011) specifically list fir (*Abies*), maple (*Acer*), buckeye (*Aesculus*), alder (*Alnus*), birch (*Betula*), hornbeam (*Carpinus*), chestnut (*Castanea*), New Jersey Tea (*Ceanothus americanus*), hazel (*Corylus*), hawthorn (*Crataegus*), dogwood (*Cornus*), strawberry (*Fragaria*), ash (*Fraxinus*), larch (*Larix*), spruce (*Picea*), cherry (*Prunus*), oak (*Quercus*), willow (*Salix*), mountain-ash (*Sorbus*), basswood (*Tilia*), hemlock (*Tsuga*), elm (*Ulmus*), and blueberry (*Vaccinium*). In North Carolina, J.B. Sullivan reared a larva from Sparkleberry (*Vaccinium arboreum*).

OBSERVATION METHODS: Comes well to blacklights but we have no records from bait.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S4S5]

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

COMMENTS: Occupies a wide range of forested habitats across the state and is broadly polyphagous; appears to be quite secure in North Carolina