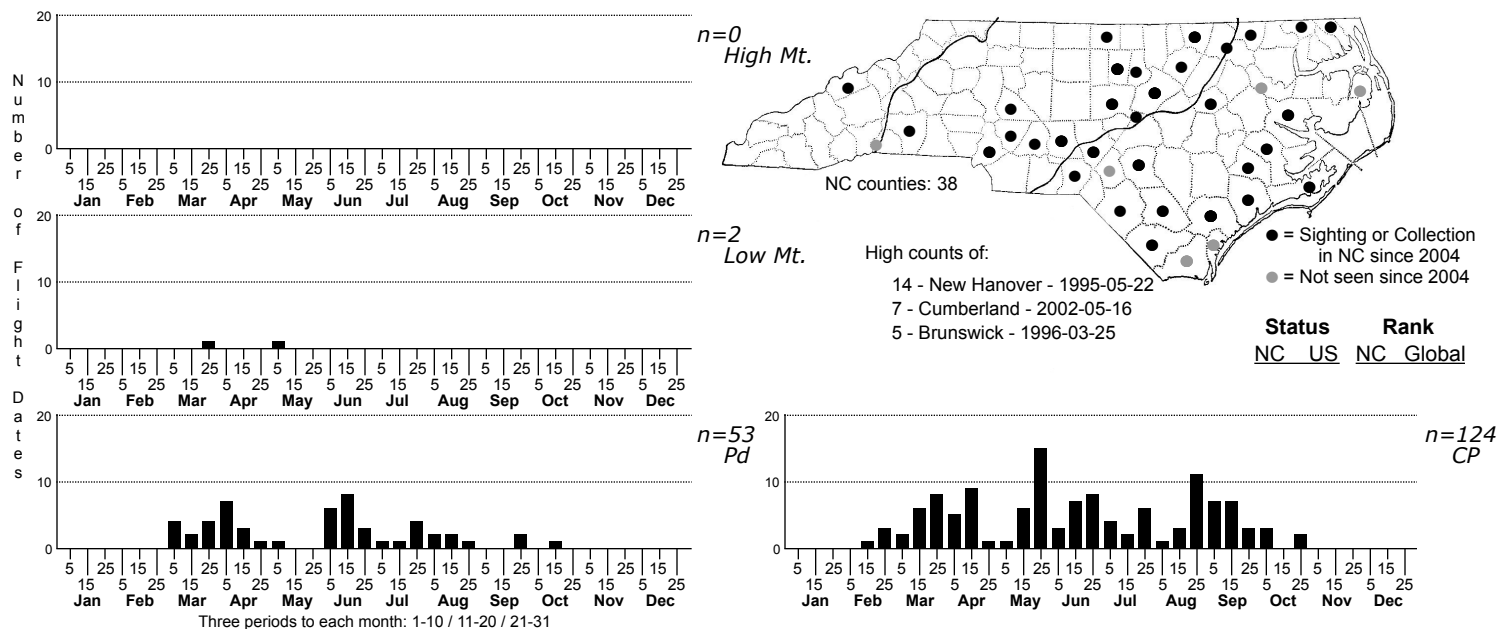


Nemoria saturiba Braided Emerald



FAMILY: Geometridae SUBFAMILY: Geometrinae TRIBE: Nemoriini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of 35 species in this genus that occur in North America (Ferguson, 1985), nine of which have been recorded in North Carolina. Ferguson (1969) included *saturiba* within the *Lixaria* Species Group (Group V), which comprises only *lixaria* and *saturiba*.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Ferguson (1969); Ferguson (1985)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Ferguson (1985); Wagner et al. (2001)

ID COMMENTS: A medium-sized Emerald, with dark to medium green ground color, wavy to fairly straight lines, and white fringes that are strongly checkered with red. The overall size and pattern are very similar to the closely related *N. lixaria* but *saturiba* is easily distinguished by its possession of strong purplish-brown (sometimes red) blotches on the abdomen in place of the white spots found in the other species (small white spots may occur in the center of the blotches in some individuals).

DISTRIBUTION: Apart from the specimen recorded at Tryon at the edge of the Blue Ridge, our records come from the eastern Piedmont and Coastal Plain.

FLIGHT COMMENT: In the Coastal Plain, adults fly nearly continuously during the growing season, although with possibly three peaks in activity. Records from the Piedmont also extend over most of the growing season but show evidence of three or four discrete flights.

HABITAT: A variety of forested or woodland habitats are used by this species, ranging from Maritime and Coastal Fringe Evergreen Forests in the tidewater area; riverine and non-riverine swamp forests; lake shorelines; dry-to-xeric sandhills; and mesic hardwood slopes. Sweetgum can be found in most of these habitats, although it is scarce to absent in the most xeric habitats. It also widespread over more of the state than is occupied by *saturiba*, making any strong correlation between the two species difficult to discern. Oaks and Red Maples -- both used by *Nemoria lixaria* -- seem equally likely to be used as host plants, although no rearing studies appear to have been conducted to determine how well captive larvae feed upon those species.

FOOD: Larvae have apparently not been observed in the wild. Larvae reared by Ferguson (1969) fed on Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*).

OBSERVATION_METHODS: Adults come well to blacklights, but we have no records from bait or from flowers.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G4 [S4]

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

COMMENTS: Although the host plants used by this species still need to be determined in the wild, *saturiba* uses a wide variety of habitats, some of them still widespread, and has a large enough range in the eastern portion of the state to seem fairly secure in North Carolina.