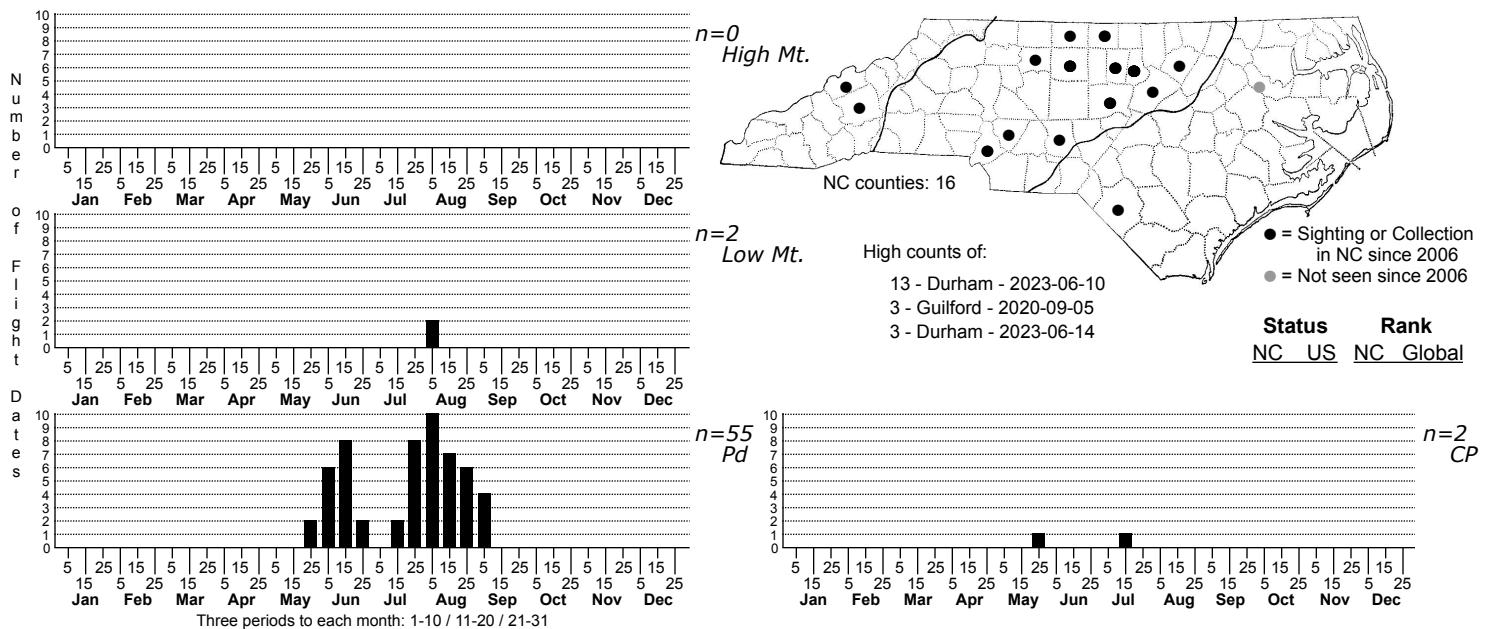


# *Idaea scintillularia* Diminutive Wave



FAMILY: Geometridae SUBFAMILY: Sterrhinae TRIBE: Sterrhini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of thirty species in this genus that occur in North America north of Mexico (Pohl et al., 2016). Thirteen have been recorded in North Carolina.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Hulst (1888)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: One of our smallest Geometrids and very strikingly marked in gray, yellow, and rufous. The large patch of dove gray covering the basal half of the forewing and a similar patch of mixed gray and rufous at the base of the hindwing contrast strongly with the bands of yellow and reddish-brown that cover the outer parts of the wings. The discal spots are black and conspicuous in some individuals.

DISTRIBUTION: Our records come mainly from the Piedmont, with one record from a brownwater floodplain along the Roanoke

FLIGHT COMMENT: Adults fly during the summer, from mid-June to early September

HABITAT: While a large number of our records come from residential areas, all of our records for natural habitats come from riparian forests or other shoreline habitats. Most are associated with brownwater rivers and streams but at least one record comes from the Lumber River, a blackwater system.

FOOD: Host plants are apparently unrecorded but members of this genus generally feed on forbs (Robinson et al., 2010).

OBSERVATION METHODS: Our records were all obtained from blacklight sampling.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR SU [S3S4]

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

COMMENTS: We have only a small number of records for this species. It appears to be at least somewhat specialized in terms of its habitats, which have generally not been heavily sampled. More surveys conducted along Piedmont rivers and floodplains may show that it is more common than it now seems. Identification of its host plants may also help clarify its conservation status in North Carolina.