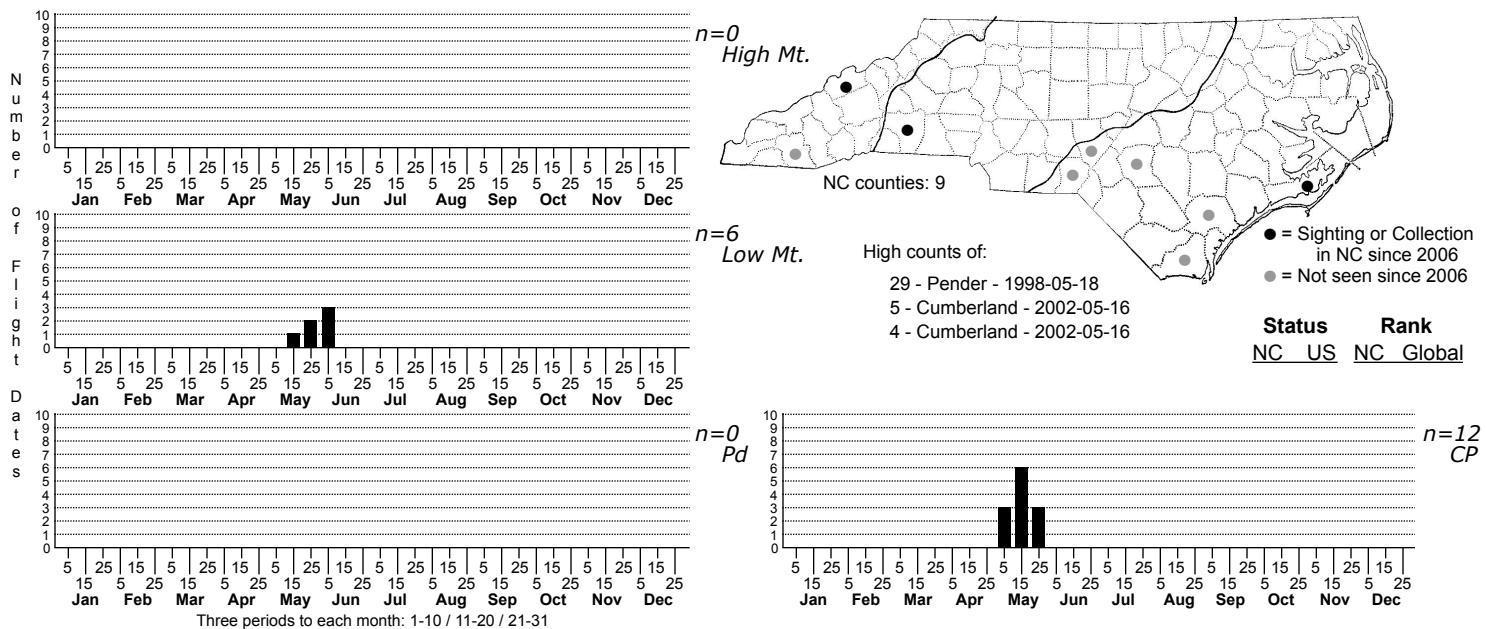


## *Idaea eremita* Straw Wave



**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:** Forbes (1948)

**TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:**

**ID COMMENTS:** A small, pale, poorly marked Wave. Forbes (1948) describes the eastern form as light luteous, with a faint postmedian. It is similar to paler forms of *I. demissaria* but with a more contrasting red-brown face and palps -- photographs should show the face to be acceptable as records for this species.

**DISTRIBUTION:** Our records come from the southern half of the state but from the Blue Ridge to the Coast.

**FLIGHT COMMENT:** Univoltine with all of our records coming from May and early June.

**HABITAT:** Almost all of our records come from along small streams or impoundments located within otherwise dry habitats -- sandhills in the Coastal Plain and upland woodlands in the Blue Ridge.

**FOOD:** Larvae reportedly feed on plant detritus, such as dead oak leaves (Wagner, 2005).

**OBSERVATION METHODS:** Appears to come fairly well to blacklights.

**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:** We have only a small number of records for this species, but scattered over a fairly wide area and coming from habitats that appear to be fairly common. More information is needed on the host plants used by this species, which may, in turn, provide a clearer picture of its distribution and habitat preferences. An accurate assessment of its conservation status cannot be done until these data are obtained.