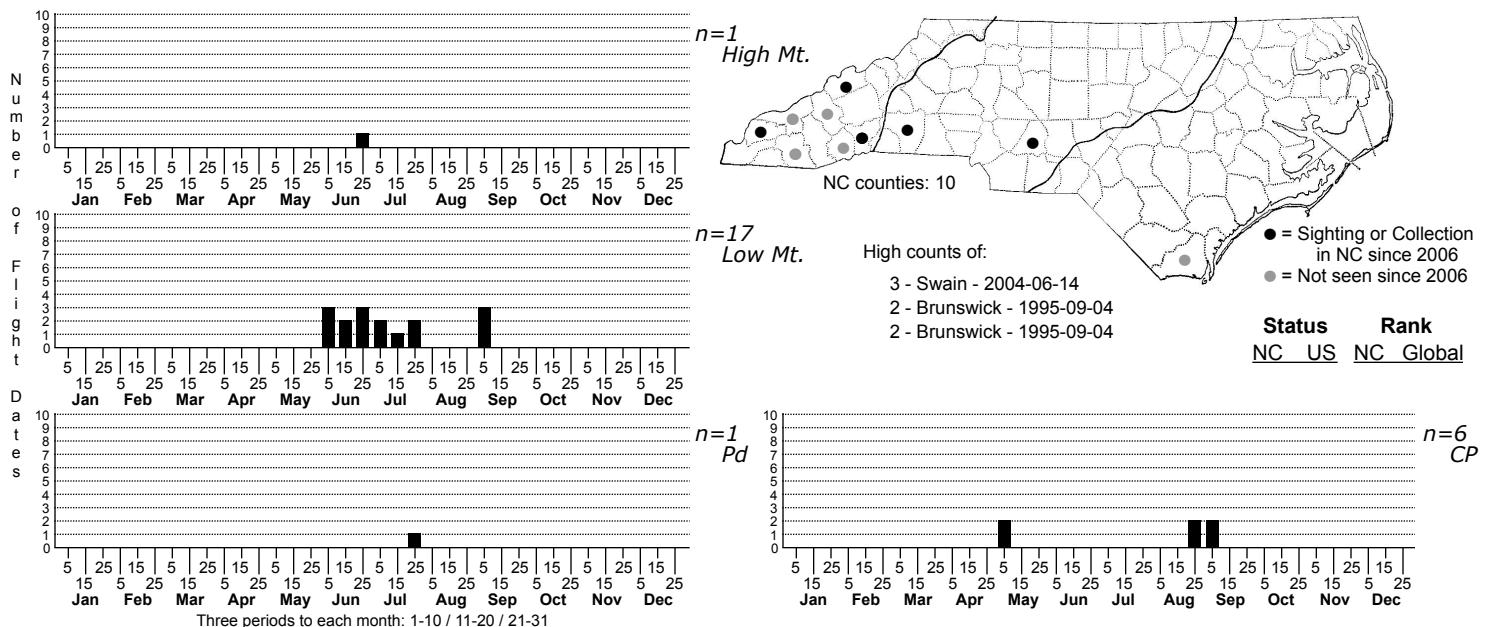


# Scopula ordinata None



FAMILY: Geometridae SUBFAMILY: Sterrhinae TRIBE: Scopulini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of 26 species in this genus that occur in North America north of Mexico (Pohl et al., 2016), seven of which have been recorded in North Carolina

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Covell (1970)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Covell (1970)

ID COMMENTS: A medium sized Wave with slightly falcate forewings. The ground color is pale cream, variably tinted with ochre, especially along the costa. The antemedian, median, and postmedian are narrow, ochre lines, running straight across the forewings but all making an outward angle -- especially sharp in the median line -- just below the costa. The discal dots are small and black and the only other markings on the wing are faint subterminal, adterminal, and terminal brown lines (Covell, 1970). None of our other whitish Geometrids have this pattern of bent lines.

DISTRIBUTION: We now have records for this species from the southern mountains, southern Piedmont, and southern Coastal Plain. Given the range of Trillium catesbeianum in the state, this species could occur over most of the Mountains and Piedmont and at least some portions of the Coastal Plain.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Possibly bivoltine: at our one site for this species in the Coastal Plain, we have records from May, and from August and September. Covell (1970) also had records from June and September.

HABITAT: Our records come from rich, mesic stands of hardwoods. In the Piedmont and Coastal Plain, records come from forested slopes located adjacent to brownwater rivers (PeeDee and Cape Fear). Mountain records appear to come primarily from rich cove forests.

FOOD: The one host plant record appears to be from a painting by John Abbott, who associated the larvae with what is now known as Catesby's Trillium (<i>Trillium catesbeianum</i>). However, the site where several individuals were collected in the Coastal Plain is outside the known range of <i>T. catesbeianum</i>, although the site itself is anomalously rich and mesic for that part of the state. Least Trillium (<i>Trillium pusillum</i>) is more likely since it occurs in the Coastal Plain and has been recorded in counties just north of the Brunswick County site. While <i>T. catesbeianum</i> has been recorded at the one Piedmont location we have for <i>Scopula ordinata</i>, most of the herbaceous vegetation at that site has been decimated by deer and trilliums do not appear to have been found since the 1960s. These anomalous sites suggest that the host plant range for <i>S. ordinata</i> could be larger and perhaps not even confined to trilliums.

OBSERVATION METHODS: Comes to both incandescent and blacklights, but we have too few records to estimate how well. We do not have any records from bait.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GU S2S3

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

COMMENTS: Covell (1970) speculated that the rarity of this species in collections could be due to undersampling of its habitats. That presumes that the species is, in fact, a narrow specialist of restricted habitats. That, in turn, would likely make it a species of conservation concern, although not enough is yet known of either its host plants or its habitat associations to make an accurate assessment. The fact that it has occurred at least twice in areas outside its expected range indicates that much still needs to be learned about this species.