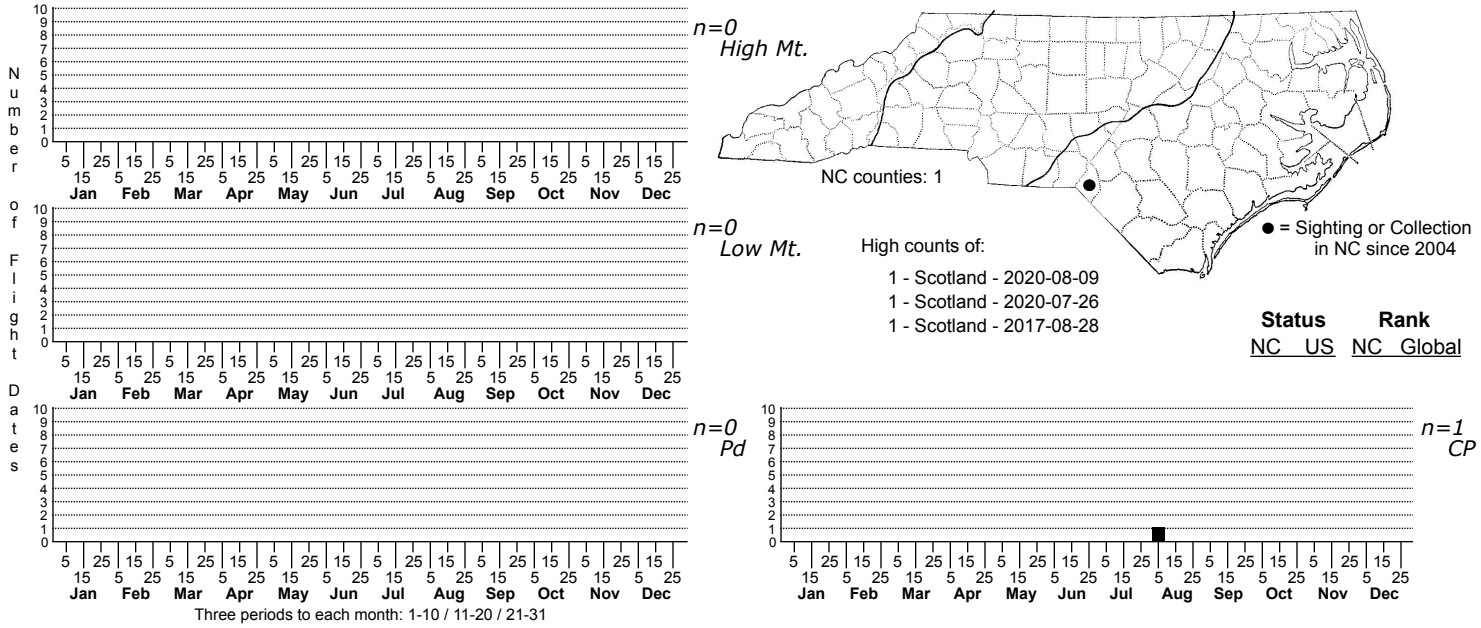
Marmara new species 23 - on Passiflora No common name



FAMILY: Gracillariidae SUBFAMILY: Gracillariinae TRIBE: [gracillariini]
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: The genus Marmara contains 19 described species from North America and numerous undescribed species. Most species are monophagous, and the mines have been found on over 80 North American plant genera that belong to 40 families (Eiseman et al., 2017). Given the small number of described species relative to the large number of hosts, there appear to be dozens of undescribed species in the US. Many of the species are difficult to rear and are only known from leaf or stem mines. North Carolina appears to have numerous undescribed species based on host preferences and mine characteristics, and Tracy Feldman has spearheaded efforts to document these within the state. We have included Marmara that we believe are probably undescribed species (ca. 30) and have listed these by their host plants. We encourage individuals to submit any leaf or stem mines that they find based on the plant hosts in order to better document the distribution and relative abundance of these forms in North Carolina.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:
ONLINE PHOTOS:
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Eiseman (2022)

ID COMMENTS: This apparently undescribed species specializes on passionflower leaves. At least one adult has been reared (see above), but has yet to be described in detail.

DISTRIBUTION: As of 2024, the mines have been found in Texas and North Carolina, with at least three records from Scotland County in the Coastal Plain.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT:

FOOD: The only known host as of 2024 is Yellow Passionflower (Passiflora lutea).

OBSERVATION_METHODS: We recommend searching for occupied mines on passionflowers during the spring and summer months. The adults should be reared, photographed and collected whenever possible.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR[SU]

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: