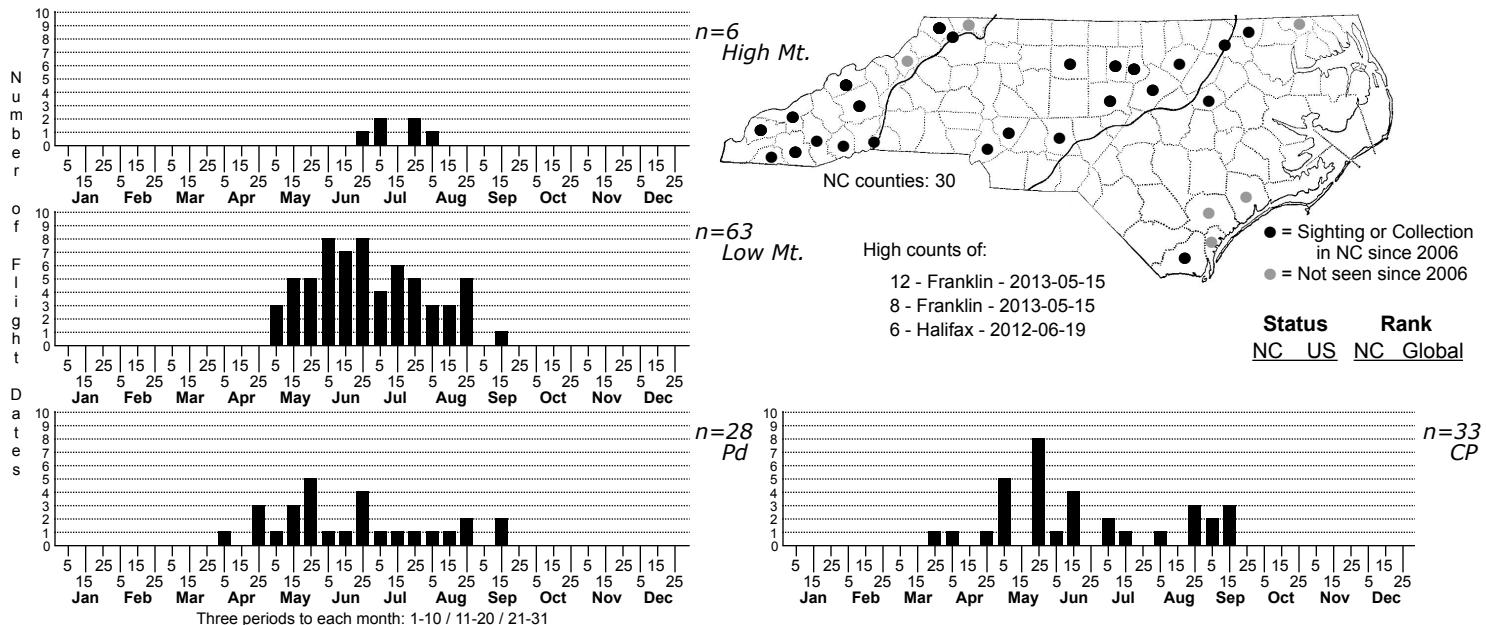


## *Heterophleps triguttaria* Three-spotted Fillip



FAMILY: Geometridae SUBFAMILY: Larentiinae TRIBE: Lobophorini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: A large genus with most members from India and China. Three species occur in the USA and two in North Carolina. Our species appear to be congeneric with some of the species from China but other species from China may be misplaced.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984); Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1948)

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

ID COMMENTS: A moderately small Geometrid with disproportionately large forewings. The three black costal markings on a field of yellow-green are diagnostic.

DISTRIBUTION: Found throughout the state except at the highest elevations.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Probably single brooded at moderate to high elevations and multiple brooded in the Piedmont and Coastal Plain.

HABITAT: Over most of the state, this species is associated with riparian forests and freshwater marshes, habitats where clearweed is common (Weakley, 2015). It also is associated with riparian habitats in the Mountains but also occurs in Rich Cove Forests and other mesic stands of hardwood forest located up on slopes; the host plants used in those habitats have not been determined, but could include other species of nettles.

FOOD: Larvae are apparently specialists on clearweed (<i>Pilea</i>) (Wagner et al., 2001). Earlier reports that maples are used were questioned by Wagner et al., who failed to rear them on maples under artificial rearing conditions.

OBSERVATION METHODS: Adults have been recorded in light traps and are unlikely to be attracted to bait. Occasionally seen when walking through wet areas.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 S4S5

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

COMMENTS: Although a host plant specialist and at least something of a habitat specialist, this species is currently widespread in riparian habitats across the state and mesic hardwoods in the Mountains.