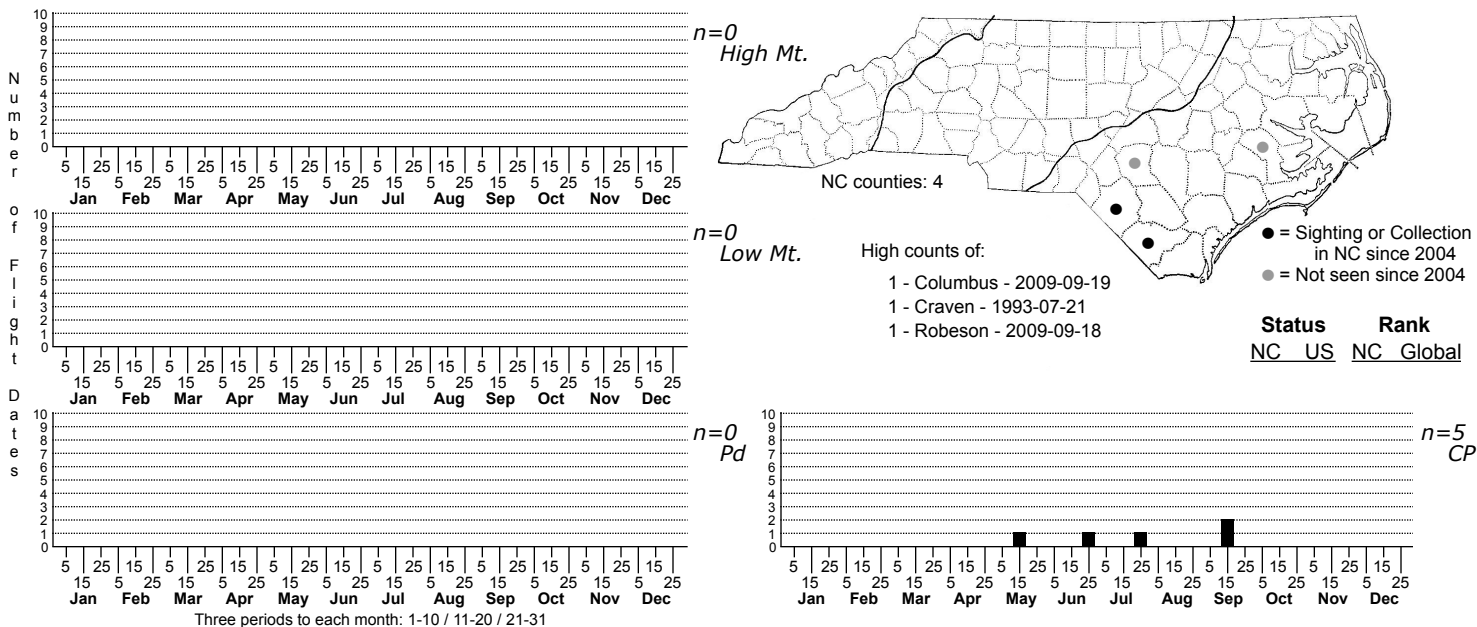


Gondysia telma No common name



FAMILY: Erebidae SUBFAMILY: Erebinae TRIBE: Poaphilini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of four species in this genus that occur in North America north of Mexico (Lafontaine and Schmidt, 2010), all of which have been recorded in North Carolina

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Sullivan (2010)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: A medium-sized, dark brown- and tan-shaded Erebid with a strongly bidentate postmedian line. The ground color of the forewings is a dark, purplish brown. This shade fills the area between the base and antemedian area, and is succeeded by a lighter shade edging the outer side of the antemedian line. Another dark shade fills the inside of the pale postmedian line, which has two strong outward points. The area beyond the postmedian is pale except for a blackish, somewhat bilobed apical dash. Hindwings are brown. *Gondysia smithii* is essentially identical in color and pattern and can only be identified through dissection or barcoding.

DISTRIBUTION: All of our records come from the southern half of the Coastal Plain, including the Fall-line Sandhills

FLIGHT COMMENT: We have records from late spring to late summer, with no strong pattern indicating separate broods

HABITAT: "N. telma is most often found in or near swamps with standing water" (Sullivan, 2010).

FOOD: Larvae have not been observed in North Carolina. However, according to Wagner (pers. comm. to JBS, 2014), larvae of either *G. smithii* or *G. telma* have been reared on *Styrax*. Based on its association with swamp forests, *Styrax americanus*, which grows primarily in swamp forests, pocosin edges and depression ponds (Weakley, 2015), seems a good possibility as the host plant of *telma*.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: All of our records come from lights; we have no records from bait for any of our species of *Gondysia*

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S2S3

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

COMMENTS: We have few confirmed records for this species, which appears to be fairly specialized in terms of its habitat. However, if its larval host is, in fact, *Styrax americanus*, then it could occur widely across the Coastal Plain. More surveys of *Styrax*-containing wetlands need to be conducted before its conservation status in North Carolina can be determined.