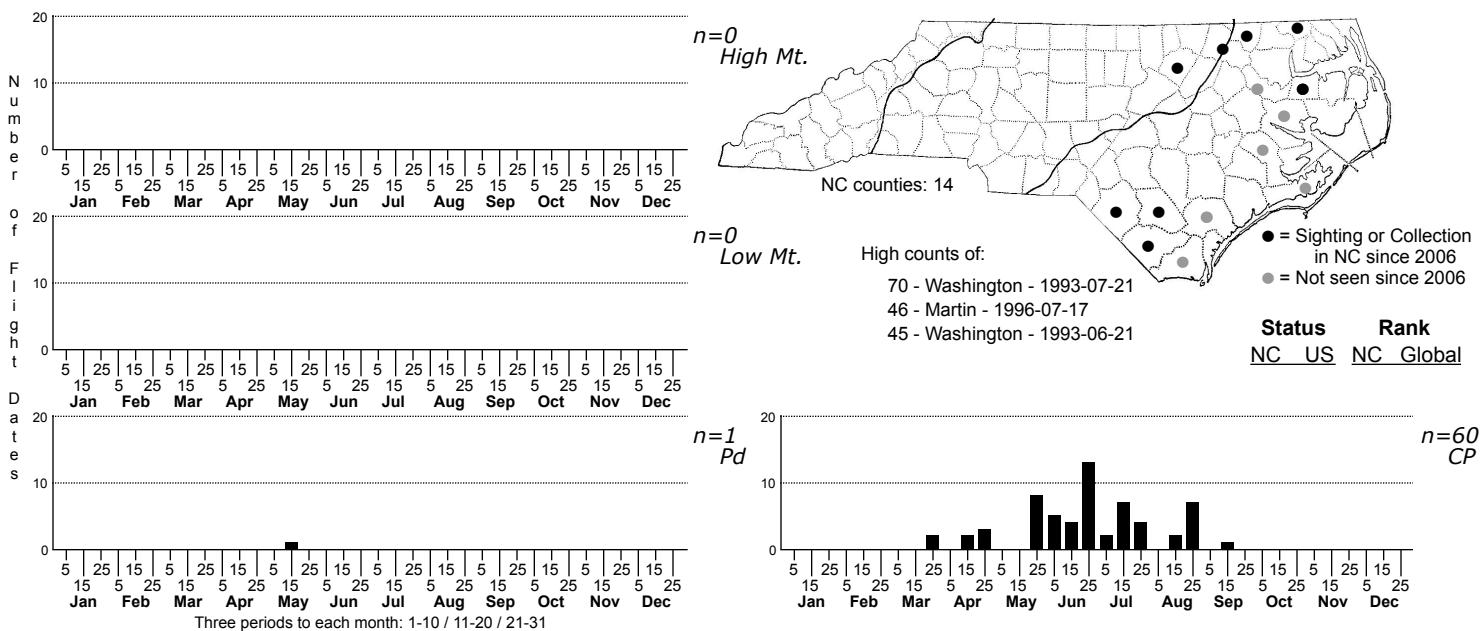


Cutina arcuata Curve-lined Cutina



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 are restricted to the southeastern United States and have been recorded in North Carolina (Pogue and Ferguson, 1998).

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Pogue and Ferguson (1998)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: A medium-small, mottled brown, black and white Erebidae. The ground color of the forewing is brown but heavily marked with black streaks or bands in the antemedian, median, and subterminal spaces. The basal, antemedian, and postmedian lines are also black and edged with white; the subterminal line is largely white. Neither the orbicular or reniform spots are present. Hindwings are light brown. This species is darker brown and much more strongly mottled than the other species of *Cutina*.

DISTRIBUTION: Probably occurs throughout the range of Taxodium in North Carolina, including the Outer Coastal Plain, Fall-line Sandhills, and a few sites in the eastern Piedmont where cypress swamps occur.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Flies through most the growing season, from March to September. Our data indicate there may be several peaks in activity

HABITAT: All of our records for this species come from riverine swamps or lakeshores; none come from pond cypress savannas.

FOOD: Larvae are possibly monophagous on Bald Cypress (<i>Taxodium distichum</i>). While Pond Cypress (<i>T. ascendens</i>) may also be used, we have no records from sites where that is the most likely choice. We do not have any feeding records in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION METHODS: Appears to come well to blacklights; we have no records from bait.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR SNR [S3S4]

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

COMMENTS: This species is a strong host plant and habitat specialist, but on species and habitats that are still widespread in at least the outer third of the state. Several threats exist, however, including sea-level rise and salt-water intrusion along the Coast; draining and conversion of Carolina Bays and other cypress-savannas to agriculture and silviculture; and loss of deep swamp habitats due to timber harvest and creation of impoundments. Despite these threats, and past losses of habitat due to massive timber cutting in bottomland forests, this species currently appears to be relatively secure within the state.