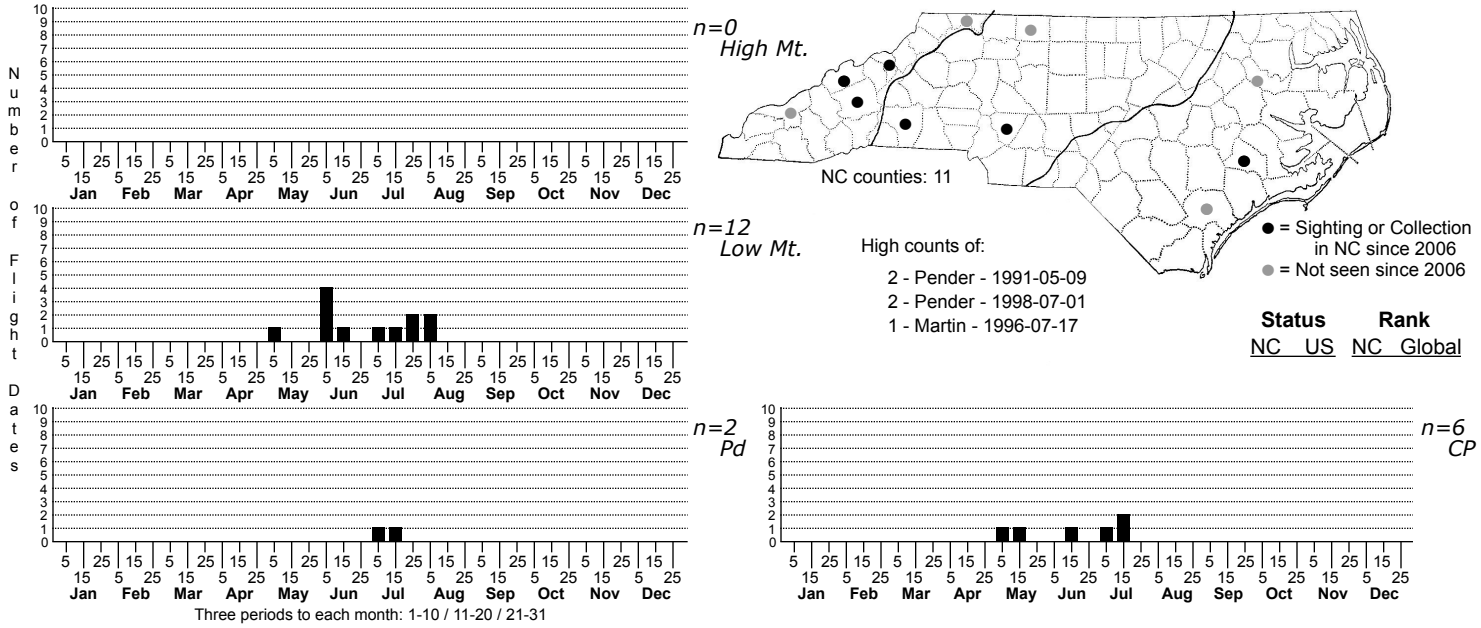
Bagisara rectifascia Straight-lined Mallow Moth



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Bagisarinae TRIBE:
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: The genus Bagisara contains some 20 described species of which 12 occur in the United States and two have been recorded in North Carolina. Other species in this genus may occur in the western and southeastern parts of the state.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:
ONLINE PHOTOS:
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: Our two species are very similar but can be distinguished by the shape of the forewing margin, the presence of a darkened reniform spot, and shading around the cross lines. B. rectifascia has a smooth forewing margin (no bump), the reniform is not darkened, the cross lines are not shaded and the forelegs bear no black scale tufts. Sexes are similar.

DISTRIBUTION: Our species appears to be resident throughout the state at lower and moderate elevations but does not seem to increase in numbers during the fall.

FLIGHT COMMENT: There appear to be at least two broods and maybe more.

HABITAT: Most of our records come from alluvial forests, including the edges of streams and rivers. A few come from mesic hardwoods where hazels are more likely to occur than mallows.

FOOD: Wagner et al. (2011) report that northern populations - which they regard as true rectifascia - feed on hazels (Corylus). Southern populations - which they regarded as an undescribed species (see Species Comments above) - feed on Turk's Cap Mallow (Malvaviscus) and Hibiscus. We do not have any feeding records in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: Adults come to light but have not been taken at baits.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G4 SNR [S2S3]

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

COMMENTS: This is one of those species found sparingly but when the details of its life history become known, it may prove to be more common. People with ready access to its potential foodplants should check often for larvae.