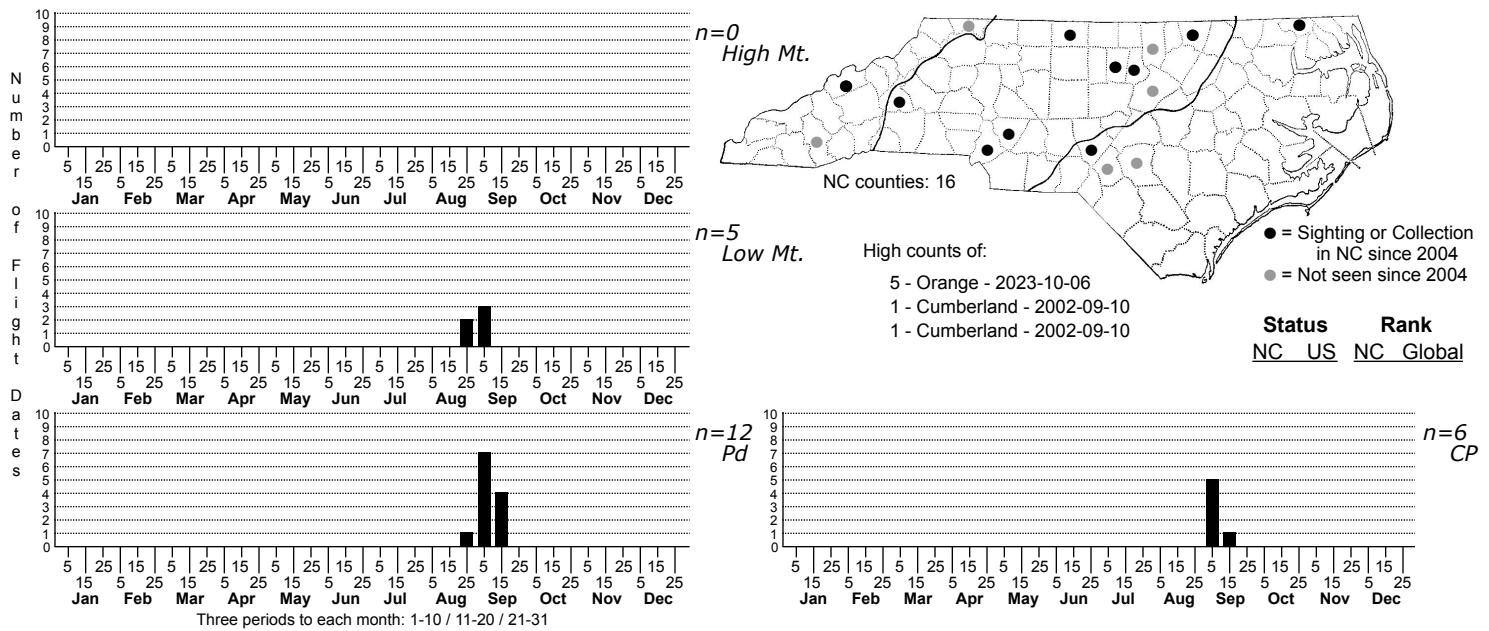


## *Cirrhophanus triangulifer* Goldenrod Stowaway Moth



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Amphipyriinae TRIBE: Stiriini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: A New World genus of some 13 very similar species found from Mexico through the United States and barely into Canada. One species occurs in North Carolina.

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1954); Poole (1995)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Wagner et al. (2011)

ID COMMENTS: A lovely species, whose pattern of orange or caramel streaks on a golden-yellow ground color distinguishes it from other golden-yellow moths, including *Basilodes pepita*, *Stiria rugifrons*, and *Argyrogramma verruca*. Sexes are similar.

DISTRIBUTION: *Cirrhophanus* occurs from the Mountains to the Coastal Plain

FLIGHT COMMENT: Single brooded, with adults on the wing in August and early September

HABITAT: Our records come mainly from wet, open areas, including old fields, powerlines, borrow pits, and lakeshores, all habitats where *Bidens* are common. We have few, if any, records from Longleaf Pine savannas or wet maritime swales, habitats where *Bidens* are not considered important species (Weakley, 2015).

FOOD: Beggar ticks (*Bidens* sp.), with Midwestern Tickseed-sunflower (*Bidens aristosa*) commonly reported (Wagner et al., 2011). The range of species is not known, nor are the exact species used in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION METHODS: Attracted to light but the moth has few records in the state and one wonders if perhaps it is only weakly attracted. Not recorded from nor expected at bait. Although it is not known if adults use nectar as a food source, they may occasionally be found on flowers during the day.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G4 S3S4

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

COMMENTS: For such a distinct moth, we have surprisingly few records, possibly reflecting a low tendency to come to lights. Host plants and habitats do not appear to be limiting factors, but more data are needed -- probably best obtained from larval surveys -- on the distribution, abundance, host plants, and habitats used in North Carolina before its conservation status can be accurately determined.