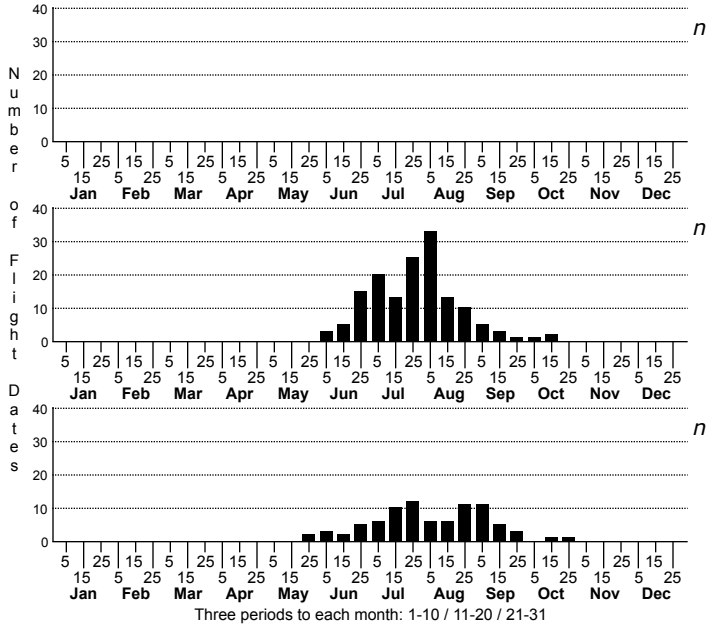
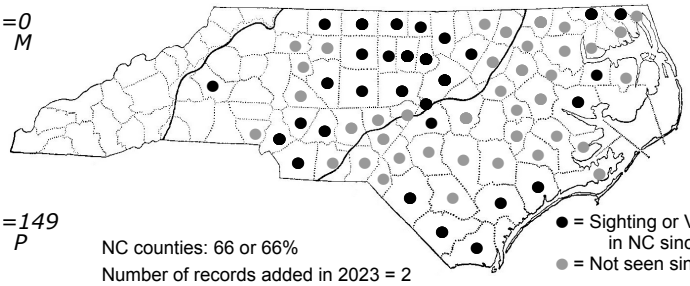
# ***Somatochlora linearis*** Mocha Emerald




NC counties: 66 or 66%
Number of records added in 2023 = 2

High counts of:
18 - Durham - 2010-08-08
12 - Orange - 2016-07-21
10 - Orange - 2018-07-04

Earliest date: Onslow 2019-05-28
Latest date: Camden 2009-10-22

| Status | | Rank | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NC | US | NC | Global |
| - | - | S5 | G5 |

DISTRIBUTION: Throughout the Coastal Plain (even near the coast), and the eastern and central Piedmont. Ranges west to Yadkin and Gaston counties, for certain, and with a sight report west to Burke County. Not known yet from the mountains, despite range maps in reference books that shade in the entire eastern US.

ABUNDANCE: Uncommon to locally fairly common over much of the Coastal Plain and eastern third of the Piedmont, but uncommon in the central Piedmont. Perhaps uncommon also in the southeastern part of the Coastal Plain. This is generally the most numerous emerald in the Piedmont and is the most numerous emerald in the Coastal Plain during the summer.

FLIGHT: Summer and early fall seasons, from early June (and very late May in the Coastal Plain) into late September, and sparingly to mid-October. Not numerous after August.

HABITAT: Small forested streams; Dunkle (2000) says streams about 1-3 yards wide are preferred.

BEHAVIOR: The species is most easily seen near small streams that are drying up. Away from streams, this emerald is often seen flying along wooded roads and wide trails, often at head height, back and forth, pausing to hover close to an observer. They spend most of the day perched in shady places, often hidden from an observer.

COMMENTS: Emeralds are usually seen in flight along and over forested roads, often at treetop height, and sometimes perching on telephone wires. They seem curious and may hover close to an observer, when the adult's bright green eyes and black thorax and abdomen are noticed. However, identification can be tricky in flight, and normally identification must be made of perched or netted individuals.