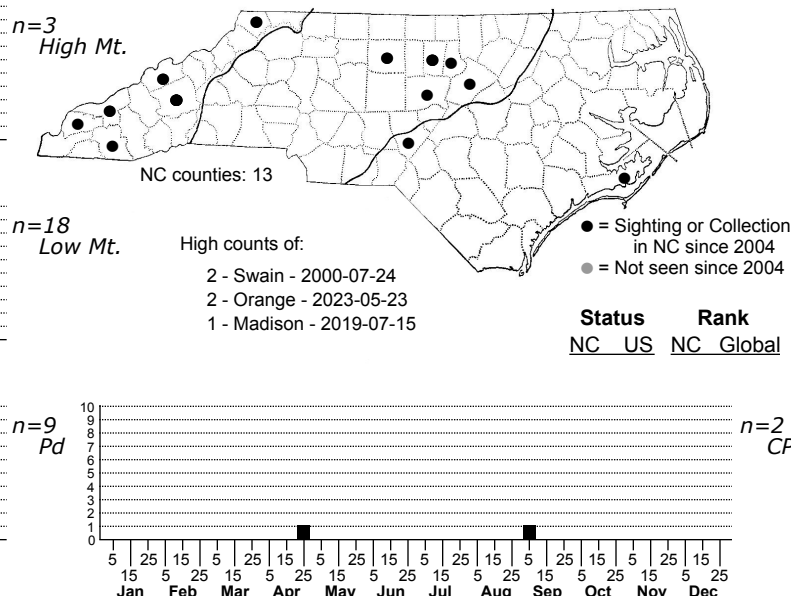
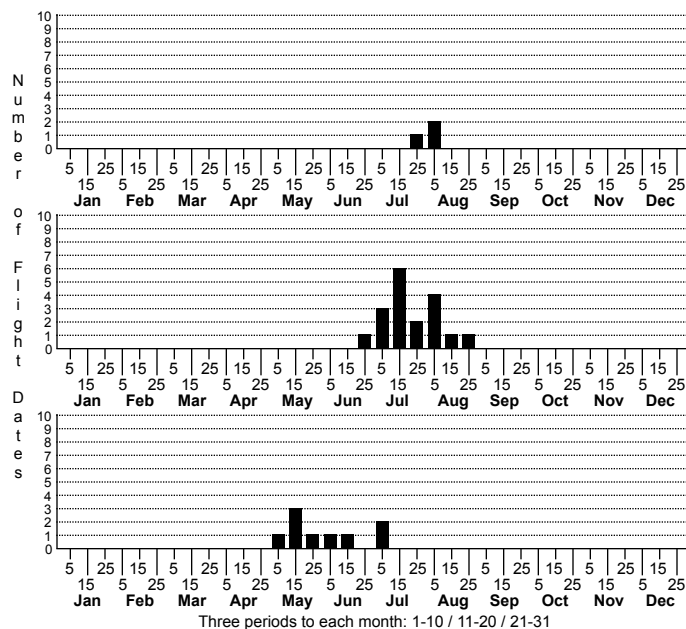


Scardiella approximata No common name



FAMILY: Tineidae SUBFAMILY: Scardiinae TRIBE: [Scardiini]

TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: *Scardiella* is a monotypic genus with a single known species from North America.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Robinson (1986)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The following description is based primarily on those of Dietz (1905) and Robinson (1986). The head is cream-colored and slightly tinged with brown. The labial palp is long, curved, ascending, and pale yellowish. The second joint is flecked with brown on the outer surface, with a brown brush beneath. The third joint is as long as the second and is tinged with brown on the outer surface of its basal half. The antenna is grayish brown with darker annulations. The thorax is cream-colored and the patagia brownish anteriorly. The forewing has a yellowish-white ground color with scattered, pale orangish brown scales. The most prominent mark is a dark brown fascia at about one-half the wing length that tends to be more irregular on the basal side. An extension from the basal side usually joins an oblique fascia that extends from near the base of the costa posteriorly, then ends before reaching the inner margin. The final conspicuous mark is a subterminal dark streak that run from the costa just before the apex, then curves anteriorly before terminating near the middle of the wing. A small dark spot is usually present on the costa immediate anterior to this streak. The cilia is pale, with a distinct line near the base. There is another wider but less clearly defined line near the outer edge of the forewing. These lines are interrupted by light bars that tend to produce a checkered pattern. The hindwing is as wide as the forewing, pale gray, and slightly tinged with fuscous. The cilia are slightly lighter, with a pale basal and a sub-basal line. The legs are buff cream, with the foreleg and mid-leg strongly marked with dark brown above. The tarsal joints of the anterior and middle pair are dark brown with pale bands at the apex. The hindleg is similar but lighter colored.

DISTRIBUTION: *Scardiella approximata* is found in eastern North America, including extreme southern Canada (Manitoba; Ontario; Quebec) and almost all of the US east of the Mississippi. As of 2020, all of our records are from the Piedmont and lower elevations in the mountains.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Adults can be found year-round in Florida, and from April through September in other areas outside on North Carolina. The peak seasonal activity is from June through August. As of 2020, our records are from mid-May through mid-August. Populations appear to be single-brooded in North Carolina.

HABITAT: The required habitats are undocumented. This species is a fungivore that appears to feed in rotting logs or dead trees. It is likely associated with habitats with hardwood trees. We have records from semi-wooded residential neighborhoods and from a natural forested site in the mountains.

FOOD: This species belongs to a group of tineids (Scardiinae) whose members are all believed to be fungal specialists. The larvae feed in either the fruiting bodies of bracket fungi, or in the wood of dead or moribund trees that have been permeated with the fungal hyphae (Robinson, 1986). Forbes (1923) reported that larvae were found in a rotten sycamore log where they were presumably feeding on fungal hyphae.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR SU

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

COMMENTS: We have only eight site records as of 2020, which suggests that this species is either uncommon or is not strongly attracted to lights. Additional information on its distribution and abundance is needed before we can assess its conservation status.