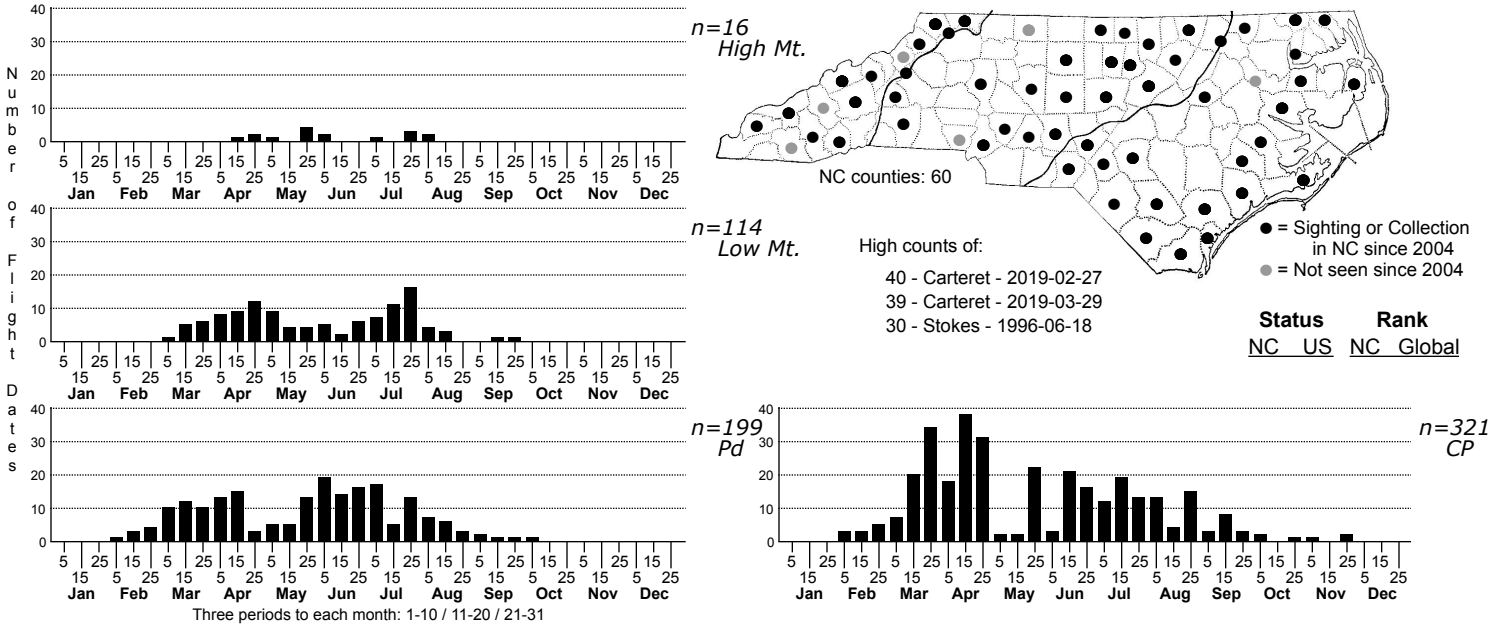
Eutrapela clemataria Curve-toothed Geometer Moth



FAMILY: Geometridae SUBFAMILY: Ennominae TRIBE: Ourapterygini
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: A genus with just one species, which occurs abundantly throughout eastern North America, including all of North Carolina

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984); Beadle and Leckie (2012)
ONLINE PHOTOS:
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1948; as Abbotana clemetaria)
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Forbes (1948); Wagner et al. (2001); Wagner (2005)

ID COMMENTS: One of our largest Geometrid moths. It is variable in pattern but usually dark brown with a conspicuous pale line that runs straight from the inner margin to just below the apex where in makes a sharp inward turn towards the costa. The apex of the wing is falcate and often has a pale patch. The inter-antennal ridge is a contrasting bright white. This species is is unlikely to be confused with anything other than Prochroedes, which is similar in size and pattern and sometimes in color, but has smooth wing margins as opposed to the crenulate margins of Eutrapela. Sexes similar but the female is much larger and far less common at light.

DISTRIBUTION: Occurs across the state, from the Barrier Islands to the High Mountains.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Shows up in late winter and is one of the most common species collected in the spring. This species appears to have two well drawn out broods which extend through most of the warm season.

HABITAT: We have records from nearly all habitat types in the state -- wherever woody plants occur. Habitats span the entire spectrums of elevation, moisture, and soil pH. Both open and forested habitats are used, and human-altered as well as natural.

FOOD: In the late spring the caterpillars are apt to be found on almost any tree or shrub. We have reared individuals collected in Craven County (Ilex opaca, Myrica cerifera) and Jones County and New Hanover County (Vaccinium arboreum). See Wagner et al. (2001) for a lengthy list of host plant species.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: Adults come abundantly to light but we have no records from bait or flowers. Caterpillars are expected whenever one beats shrubs and trees.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 [S5]

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

COMMENTS: One of the most widespread species in the state, as well as one of the most generalized in terms of host plants and habitat associations. Consequently, this species appears to be one of the most secure in North Carolina.