# *Metallata absumens*  Variable Metallata Moth



n=1
High Mt.

n=2
Low Mt.

n=9
Pd

n=48
CP

Number of Flight Dates

Three periods to each month: 1-10 / 11-20 / 21-31

NC counties: 18

High counts of:

4 - New Hanover - 1995-09-13
3 - Macon - 1999-06-05
2 - Brunswick - 1994-06-09

● = Sighting or Collection in NC since 2004
● = Not seen since 2004

**Status**  **Rank**
NC   US   NC   Global
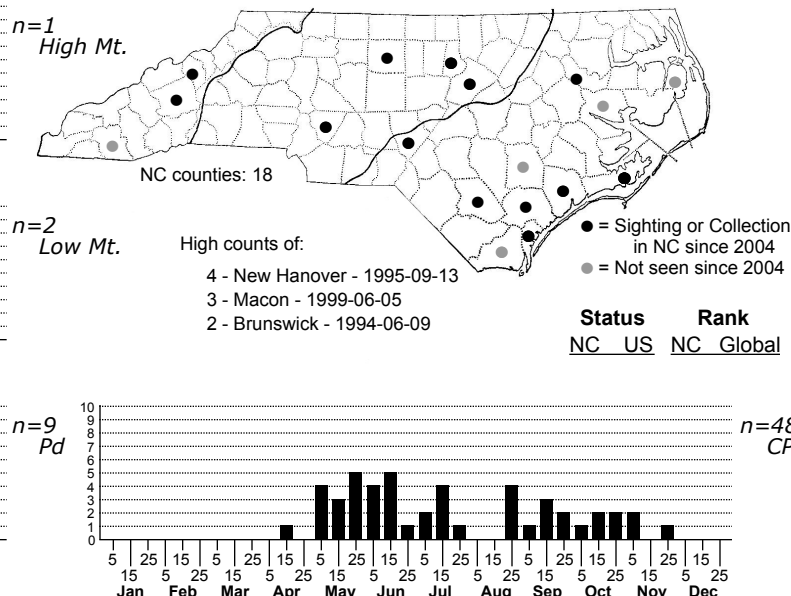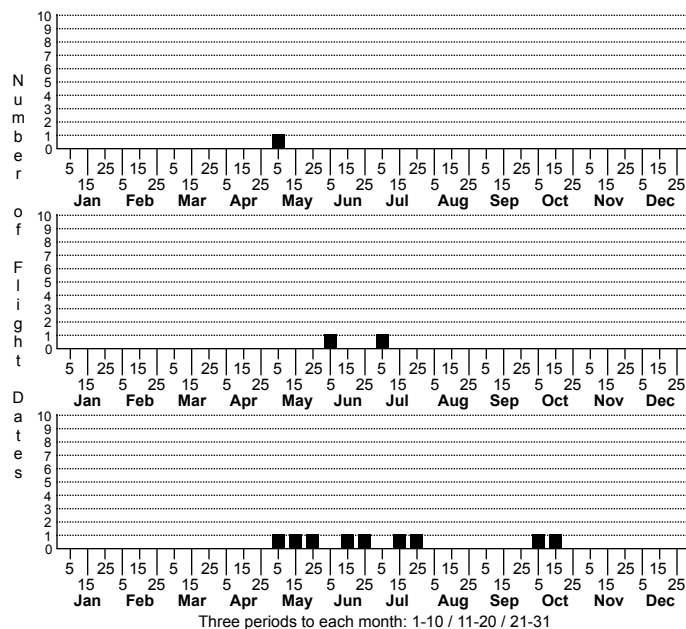
FAMILY: Erebidae     SUBFAMILY: Eulepidotinae     TRIBE: Panopodini
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

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

ID COMMENTS: Similar in pattern and color to *Anticarsia gemmatalis* but is smaller and the postmedian is angled further in on the wing, with the point below vein M1 (Forbes, 1954). In our specimens, this point is less acute than in *gemmatilis*, forming a great than 45 degree angle, versus less than 45 in *gemmatilis*. The orbicular is usually minute but the reniform is large and is either black, white, or concolorous with the ground color. A dark line connects the reniform to the costa (Leckie and Beadle, 2018), whereas the median line, if present in *gemmatilis* runs in front of the reniform. Where visible, the hindwing has a small dark discal spot located above the postmedian that is missing in *gemmatilis* (Leckie and Beadle, 2018). The spots on the underside of the wing are dark rather than light, as they are in *gemmatilis* (Forbes, 1954).

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: In North Carolina, this species is most abundant on barrier islands and the Outer Coastal Plain. Records from the Piedmont may represent populations associated with planted waxmyrtles. Records from the Mountains, including Mt. Mitchell, more likely represent migrants.

FOOD: One larva collected on Bayberry was reared to adulthood, confirming it as absumens (J.B. Sullivan, pers. obs.). That observation, together with the fact that most of our records come from barrier islands and other sites where Waxmyrtles are common, suggest that members of the Myrtaceae are the likely host plants.

OBSERVATION_METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: [GNR] S3S4

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

COMMENTS: