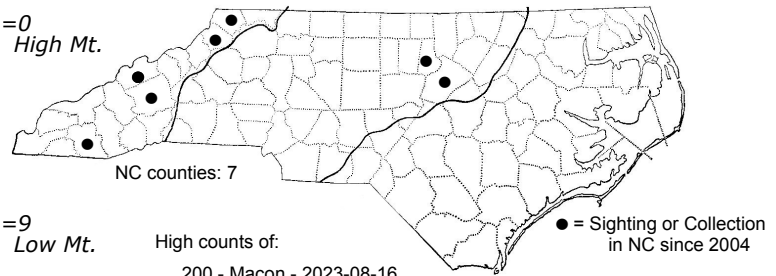
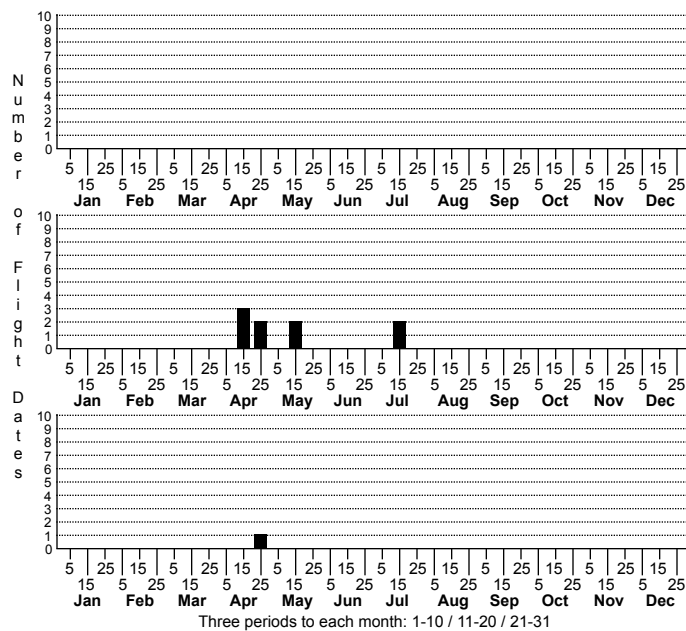


Pristerognatha agilana No common name



High counts of:

200 - Macon - 2023-08-16
5 - Madison - 2023-04-18
5 - Buncombe - 2023-08-05

Status Rank
NC US NC Global

FAMILY: Tortricidae SUBFAMILY: Olethreutinae TRIBE: Olethreutini
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: In addition to having post-median silvery lines, *Pristerognatha agilana* typically has two pairs of short, yellowish antemedial costal strigulae (each pair sometimes fused), with a silver line that extends dorsally from each pair (MPG). The silver lines sometimes fuse as the extend towards the middle of the wing. A centrally located silver spot is often present between the antemedial and first postmedial silver lines. Opposite the antemedial costal striae there is a pair of silver dorsal striae or elongated spots that are often fused or poorly defined. The costal strigulae often have white scales at the costal margin.

Pristerognatha agilana is sometimes confused with *Olethreutes auricapitana*. A key distinction is that the two silvery antemedial lines of *O. auricapitana* fuse to form a V that terminates about one-third of the way between the costa and the dorsal margin. The two lines often remain separate and extend much farther inward in *Pristerognatha agilana*. The former also has a silvery spot above the V near the dorsal margin (absent in *P. agilana*), along with golden colored palps versus more whitish palps for *P. agilana*.

DISTRIBUTION: *Pristerognatha agilana* is found throughout most of the eastern US where populations of jewelweed are present. It appears to be generally absent from most of the southeastern Coastal Plain. As of 2023, all of our records are from the Blue Ridge and Piedmont.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been found from April through October in different areas of the eastern US. Our rather limited records as of 2023 are from April through July. Local populations appear to be univoltine, with the larvae overwintering, then pupating with the spring warm-up.

HABITAT: Our records from the Blue Ridge are mostly from cove forests, rich woods, mountain slopes, and alluvial forests, and often where wet ditches and seepages are present that support jewelweeds. The habitats used in the Piedmont are almost always mesic to wet habitats that support the host plants.

FOOD: The larvae feed on species of *Impatiens* (Robinson et al., 2010). Both Spotted Jewelweed (*I. capensis*) and Pale Jewelweed (*I. pallida*) are used in North Carolina, although the latter appears to be used more commonly in the Blue Ridge.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adult occasionally visit lights and the larvae can be found in jewelweed stalks and root bases. Look for plants that are wilted even though they are growing in wet soils. If a stem is split near the base and into the root stock, frass and a whitish larva will usually be present.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S2S4

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

COMMENTS:
March 2024

The Moths of North Carolina - Early Draft

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