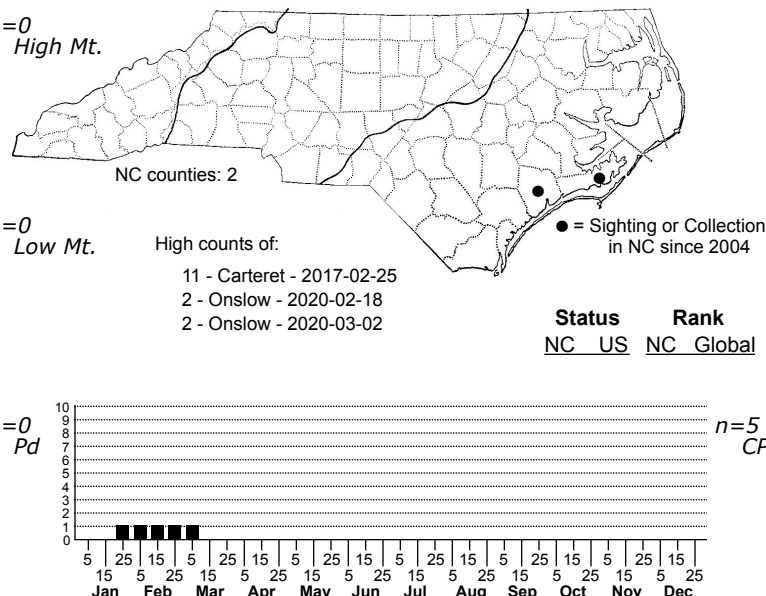


Eucosma ambodaidaleia No common name



FAMILY: Tortricidae SUBFAMILY: Olethreutinae TRIBE: Eucosmini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: *Eucosma ambodaidaleia* is one of four species that Wright and Gilligan (2015) recognized as comprising the *lapidana* species group. Three of the four species are nearly indistinguishable based on genitalia and forewing appearance, but they differ in their geographic distributions and/or flight periods. *Eucosma ambodaidaleia*, however, can be easily separated from the others by forewing color.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Wright and Gilligan (2015)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The following description is based in part on that of Wright et al. (1997). The head, palps, and thorax are brownish gray and concolorous with a longitudinal band that runs along the inner margin. The forewing ground color is creamy white, which is most evident along the veins and in the subcostal region. In most specimens a wide brownish gray band extends along the inner margin to near the anal angle. The band extends inward to near the middle of the wing where it meets a light yellowish-brown region with narrow, brownish ochreous longitudinal streaks that extend from the base outward to the termen. The streaks run between the veins and accentuate their creamy white appearance. The forewing is overlaid with a sprinkling of dark brown dots that are accentuated on the apical half of the costa and the outer margin. The dots on the outer margin occur between the veins, which creates the impression of an intermittent terminal line. The hindwing is light brown to grayish-brown with a lighter fringe that has a subbasal dark line.

DISTRIBUTION: *Eucosma ambodaidaleia* is found in Coastal Plain habitats from eastern Texas to Maryland. It also occurs in inland regions from New York westward to Ontario and Wisconsin and southward to West Virginia and Kentucky.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults are active in late-winter and early spring and have been observed from January through April in different areas of the range, with a seasonal peak most commonly in March and April. As of 2022, our records are from late-January through early March.

HABITAT: The preferred habitats are poorly documented, but habitats that support an herbaceous ground layer with asters or other composites seem essential.

FOOD: The host plants are unknown, but are presumably asters or other composites (Wright et al., 1997).

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR SU

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: This species appears to be uncommon in North Carolina and restricted to a few coastal communities. Additional information is needed on host use, habitat preferences, and distribution and abundance before we can accurately assess its conservation status within the state.