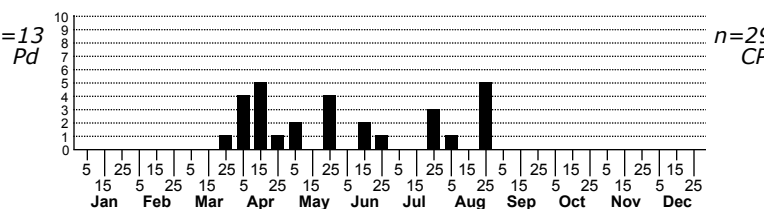
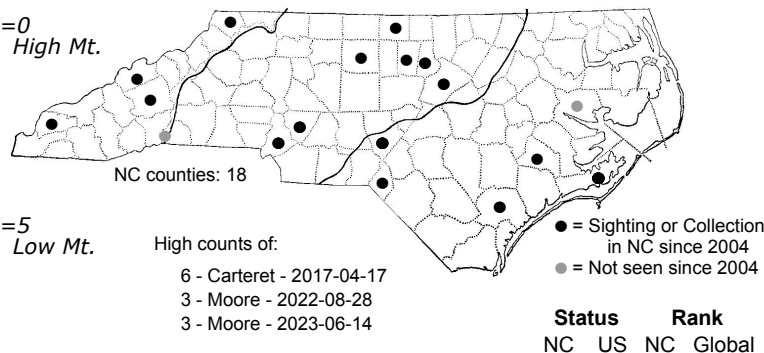
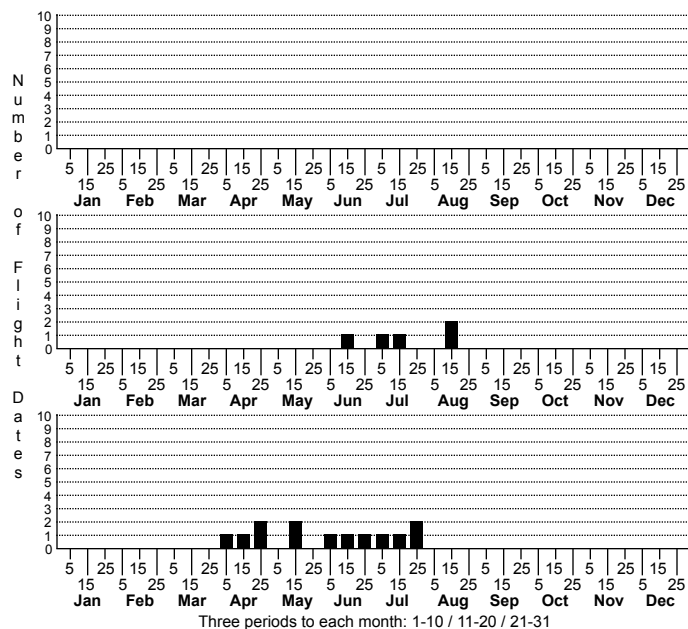


Epiblema scudderiana Goldenrod Gall Moth



FAMILY: Tortricidae SUBFAMILY: Olethreutinae TRIBE: Eucosmini
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Wright (2002)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Miller (1976)

ID COMMENTS: The following description is based in part on the descriptions by Forbes (1923) and Wright (2002). In this species the palps, antennae and head are brown. The forewing has a prominent blackish-brown basal patch that is variably overlaid with blue-gray or dark purplish-gray scales. The patch covers the basal fourth of the wing and is sharply defined with a somewhat irregular outer boundary where it meets a broad, light, median band. The median band in North Carolina specimens is either white, or white with a faint pinkish or tan shade, and often has a few gray stria, elongated blotches or flecks. The median band extends from the inner margin to just short of the costa and narrows on both sides to a blunt, rounded end. The distal side is often poorly defined where it meets the region between the median band and the ocellus. The ocellus is crossed longitudinally by one to four black dashes and is variably bordered on the basal, distal, and ternal margins with blue-gray scales. The region between the ocellus and the median band is variably colored, and can be predominantly brown, or filled with a mixture of whitish, black, and gray scaling. A black spot is present in this region about a third of the way inward from the inner margin and just proximal to the ocellus. A narrow band of orange-brown coloration is present along the apical third of the costa that is crossed by four pairs of white costal strigulae. The strigulae transition into blue-gray stria that run distally towards the ocellus and termen. An orangish-brown spot is often present at the apex, and an orangish-brown line may extend along the costal half of the outer margin.

Epiblema scudderiana resembles several other species, including *E. infelix*, *E. tripartitana* and *E. glenni*. It can best be distinguished by the white median band that stops just short of the costa and is bluntly rounded. The proximal edge is crisp and distinct, while the distal edge is often poorly defined, particularly in lighter-colored specimens (Wright, 2002). *Epiblema infelix* has a white, roughly triangular, median band that only extends about two-thirds the distance from the inner margin to the costa. Both *E. tripartitana* and *E. glenni* have well-defined median bands with their own distinctive shapes, with that of *E. glenni* being salmon-colored.

DISTRIBUTION: *Epiblema scudderiana* is found throughout much of the eastern and central U.S. and in adjoining areas of Canada from Saskatchewan and Manitoba eastward to Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. In the U.S. the range extends from Maine to southern Florida, and westward to Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Colorado, Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota and northeastern North Dakota. This species occurs statewide in North Carolina.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been observed from February through October, with the primary flight season from April through August. As of 2024, our records range from late-March through late-August, with a relatively short flight period in the Blue Ridge.

HABITAT: Local populations are typically found in fragmented landscapes with forests, fields, residential neighborhoods and other disturbed habitats. It also occurs in natural communities with a well developed ground cover of forbs. This species relies heavily on goldenrods as hosts and populations are centered around sites with the host plants.

FOOD: Larvae feed on composites, including *Solidago*, *Heterotheca*, *Euthamia*, and possibly *Baccharis*, with goldenrods being the primary hosts (Forbes, 1923; Heinrich, 1923; MacKay, 1959; Kimball, 1965; Ferguson, 1975; Miller, 1976; Plakidas, 1978; Godfrey et al., 1987; Martel, 1995; Joannis and Storey, 1995; Heppner, 2007; Robinson et al., 2010). Miller (1976) reared adults from Camphorweed (*Heterotheca subaxillaris*) and several species of goldenrods, including members of the Canada Goldenrod complex (*Solidago altissima* -*canadensis*), Giant Goldenrod (*S. gigantea*), Early Goldenrod (*S. juncea*), Gray Goldenrod (*S. nemoralis*) and Elmleaf Goldenrod (*S. ulmifolia*). Other reported hosts include Grass-leaved Flat-top Goldenrod (*Euthamia graminifolia*; Plakidas, 1978) and a *Baccharis* sp. The latter needs verification.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights and the larvae can be found in galls on goldenrods.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S4S5

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

COMMENTS: This species occurs statewide and often inhabits early successional fields and disturbed sites that are commonplace in North Carolina.