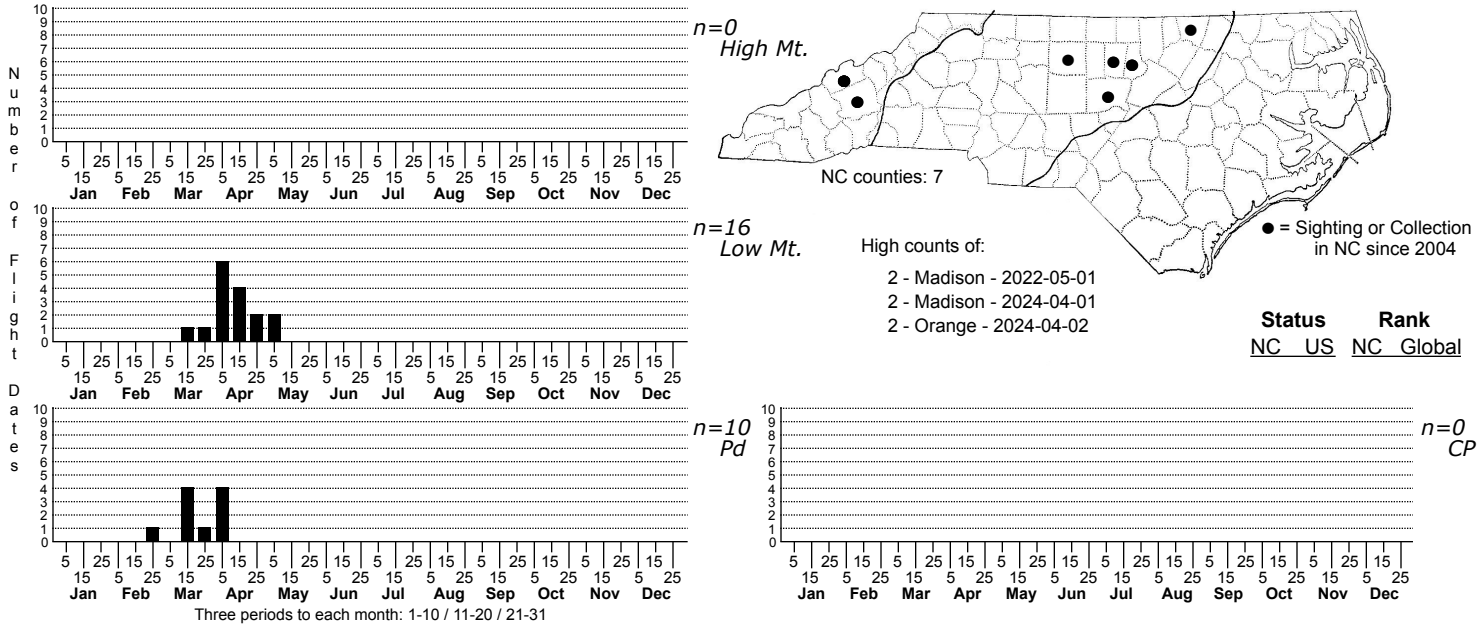
Povolnya quercinigrella No common name



FAMILY: Gracillariidae SUBFAMILY: Gracillariinae TRIBE: [Gracillariini]
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: There are only seven known species in this genus, but they are widely distributed in North America, Europe, and Asia.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:
ONLINE PHOTOS: MPG, Bugguide, BAMONA, iNaturalist
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: (Ely, 1915)
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: (Ely, 1915)

ID COMMENTS: The thorax and forewings have a white ground color that is overlaid with ashy gray to light reddish brown coloration. The basal fourth of the wing is dark gray to reddish brown, and abuts a conspicuous, wide, pale gray fascia which extends obliquely across the wing posteriorly. The pattern beyond the large fascia is indistinct, but several smaller, whitish fasciae or blotches are often evident toward the tip of the wing. The cilia are light colored with two lines about the apex. The face is pale gray, and the crown of the head appears somewhat roughened with tufts above the eyes. The labial palps are white with a few dark scales toward the tips of the joints, and the second joint of the labial palpi has a distinct tuft. The antennae are pale yellow gray with brown annulations. The tibia and femur of the front and middle leg are reddish brown, and the tarsi are white with rusty brown annulations at the tips of the segments. The rear leg is yellowish to light tan.

DISTRIBUTION: Povolnya quercinigrella occurs throughout much of eastern North America from southern Ontario and Maine southward to Florida, and westward to Texas and Illinois. As of 2019, our records in North Carolina are from the lower mountains and Piedmont.

FLIGHT COMMENT: In North Carolina, adults are active during March and April.

HABITAT: This species appears to use a variety of forested habitats that support oaks, including habitats that range from moist, alluvial floodplains to dry, upland forests.

FOOD: Povolnya quercinigrella specializes on oaks and was originally described from adults that were reared on Water Oak (Quercus nigra). Eiseman (2019) found mines of this species on other oaks, including Bear Oak (Quercus ilicifolia), White Oak (Q. alba), Northern Red Oak (Q. rubra), Post Oak (Q. stellata), and Black Oak (Q. velutina).

OBSERVATION_METHODS: Adults are attracted to UV lights, and larvae can be obtained from leaf mines on oaks.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S3S5

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

COMMENTS: