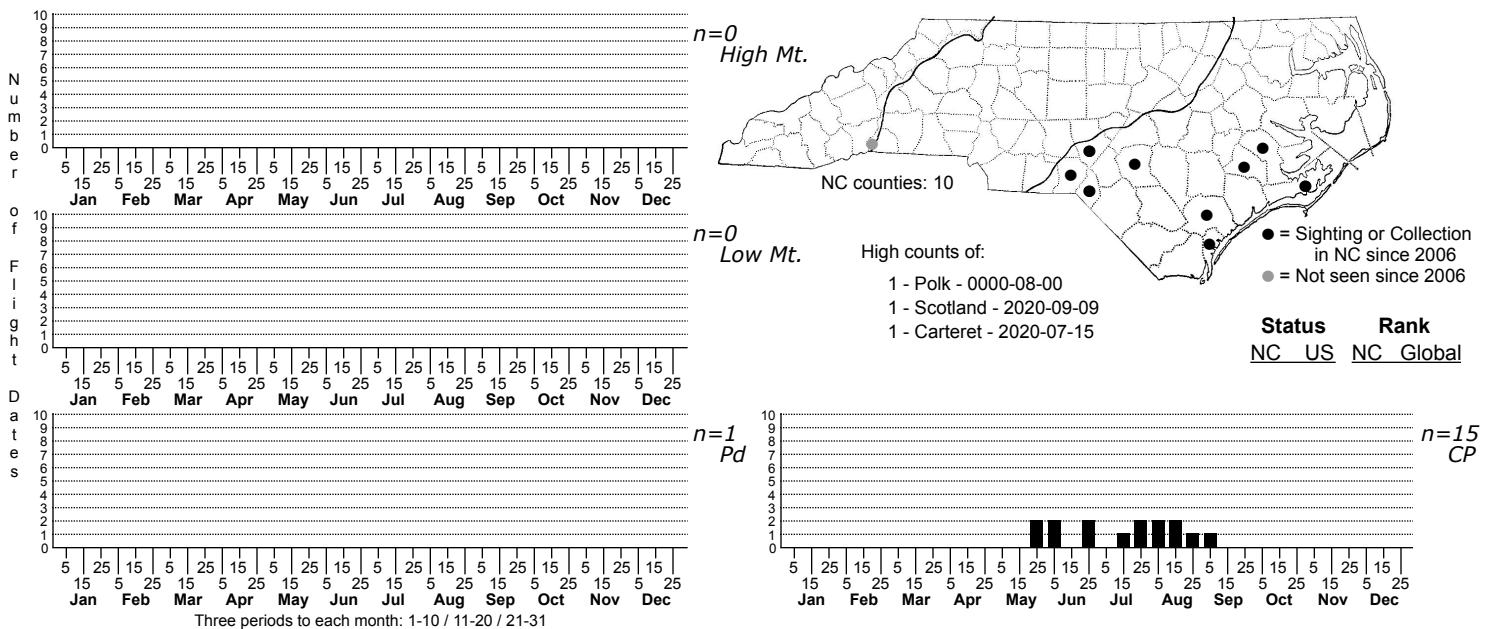


Antaeotricha decorosella None



FAMILY: Depressariidae SUBFAMILY: Stenomatinae TRIBE: [Stenomatini]

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: The genus *Antaeotricha* is endemic to the New World and includes nearly 400 species of mostly neotropical species. Twenty species are currently recognized in North America.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Duckworth (1964)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The following is based on the description by Busck (1908) and Duckworth (1964). The face and head are whitish ocherous. The labial palp is brownish ocherous, with the tip of the second joint and base of the terminal joint whitish. The antenna is light brown and ciliated only in the male (antenna simple in the female). The thorax is light brown. The forewing is rich deer brown with a strong silky luster, and the costal edge is narrowly light ocherous. At about two-thirds the wing length, the cell has a faint dark brown apical spot. The hindwing is whitish fuscous with ocherous cilia. The front leg is rich brown, while the middle leg is somewhat lighter, and the hind leg white. The abdomen is whitish ocherous. This species is superficially similar to *A. unipunctella*, but can be distinguished by the darker rich brown color and the light costal edge.

DISTRIBUTION: *Antaeotricha decorosella* is found in the eastern US, but the range is poorly documented due to the paucity of records. Duckworth (1964) examined specimens from New Jersey, Massachusetts, North Carolina and Florida. The one historical record from North Carolina was from Tryon in Polk Co.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The flight season is poorly documented. All specimens examined by Duckworth (1964) were collected in July and August.

HABITAT: The habitats are poorly documented. The known oak hosts are associated with dry to xeric forested habitats such as south-facing slopes or dry rocky ridge lines.

FOOD: Duckworth (1964) listed Bear Oak (*Quercus ilicifolia*) and Blackjack Oak (*Q. marilandica*) as hosts. In North Carolina, a larva has been reared from Blackjack Oak.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults occasionally visit lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S2S3

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

COMMENTS: As of 2020, we only had a single historical record for the species, which is at the northern extreme of its range in North Carolina. The numerous records since then suggest that the species may be in the process of establishing populations in the state, a process which may be facilitated by climate change.