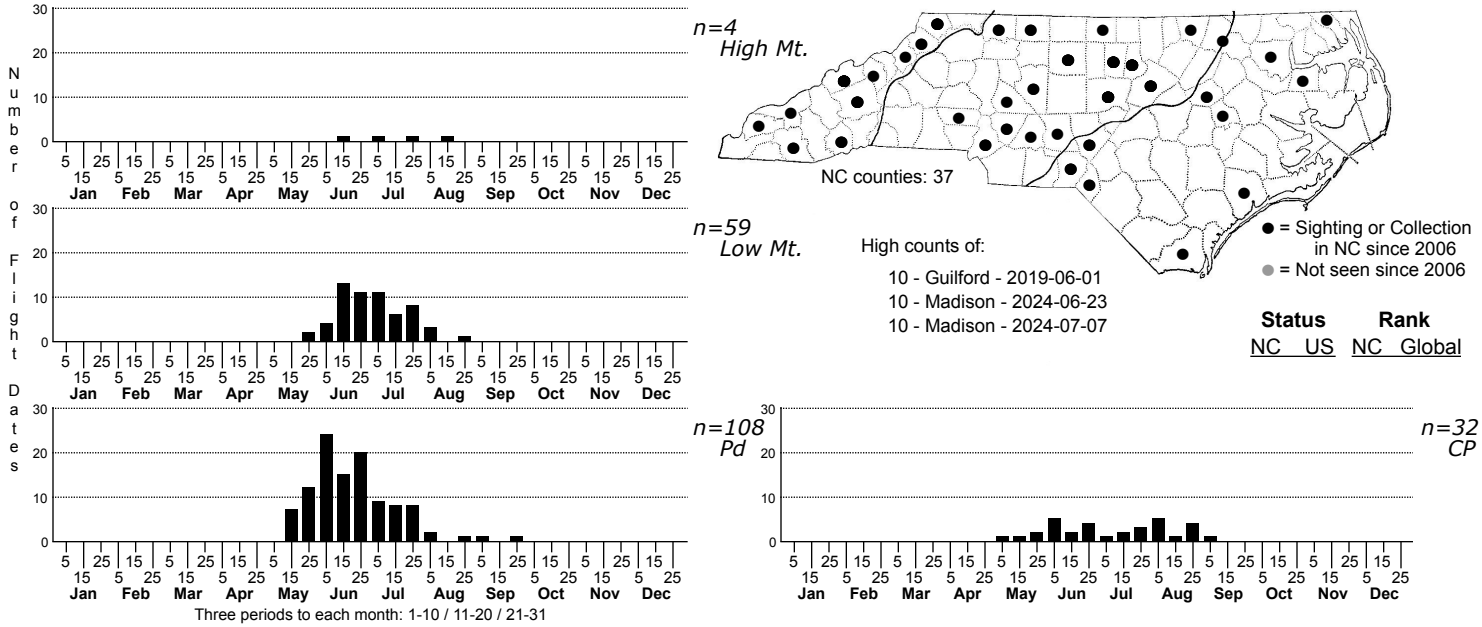
Callima argenticinctella Orange-headed Callima



FAMILY: Oecophoridae SUBFAMILY: Oecophorinae TRIBE: Oecophorini
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Beadle and Leckie (2012); Leckie and Beadle, 2018; Covell (1984)
ONLINE PHOTOS:
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Clarke (1941); Hodges (1974)
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: This is a colorful and easily recognizable species with pronounced labial palps and a well-defined brown saddle behind the yellowish-brown thorax. The detailed description that follows is based in part on that of Clarke (1941). The head is pale to golden-yellow and the thorax yellowish brown. The second segment of the labial palp is blackish fuscous, while the terminal segment and antenna are banded black and white. The ground color of the forewing is pale to golden-yellow with rich brown markings. At the wing base there is a large broad brown band that is margined on both sides with a silvery white stripe with narrow black margins. The band and stripes extend from the inner margin across most of the wing before terminating before reaching the costa. A second broad band extends from the inner margin near the tornus and terminates about mid-way. This band is margined on all three sides with a silvery white stripe (sometimes partially lead colored) that is narrowly edged with black scales. The band and adjoining areas of the fringe are sometimes dusted with blackish scales. An outwardly oblique postmedian silvery bar extends from the costa to about one-half the distance across the wing. The cilia are golden-yellow except for a small area before the tornus which is fuscous. The termen usually has a narrow dusting of silvery white or lead-colored scales and a broader zone of rufous and blackish scales. The hindwing and cilia are fuscous. The fore and middle legs are chiefly black and white, while the hind leg is lighter. The abdomen is fuscous.

DISTRIBUTION: Callima argenticinctella is found in eastern North America. The range includes portions of southern Canada (Manitoba eastward to Nova Scotia), and much of the eastern US. The range in the US extends from the northeastern states southward to northern Florida and southern Alabama, and as far west as Minnesota, eastern Kansas and eastern Texas. As of 2024, our records include much of the state except for the southern and central Coastal Plain.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Local populations appear to be single brooded (Hodges, 1974). The adults have been recorded from April through October in different portions of the range, with a seasonal peak in June through August. As of 2024, we have records from mid-May through late-September with a peak in activity from May through July.

HABITAT: The larvae feed on the decaying bark of hardwoods and are generally associated with hardwood or mixed pine-hardwood forests, as well as wooded residential neighborhoods.

FOOD: Clarke (1941) reported that the larvae feed on the dead wood and bark of hickories (Carya spp.), larches (Larix spp.), elders (Sambucus spp.), and elms (Ulmus spp.). Hodges (1974) reported them on the bark of elms (Ulmus spp.). We do not have any feeding records in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

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 is widespread across much of the state and is seemingly secure.