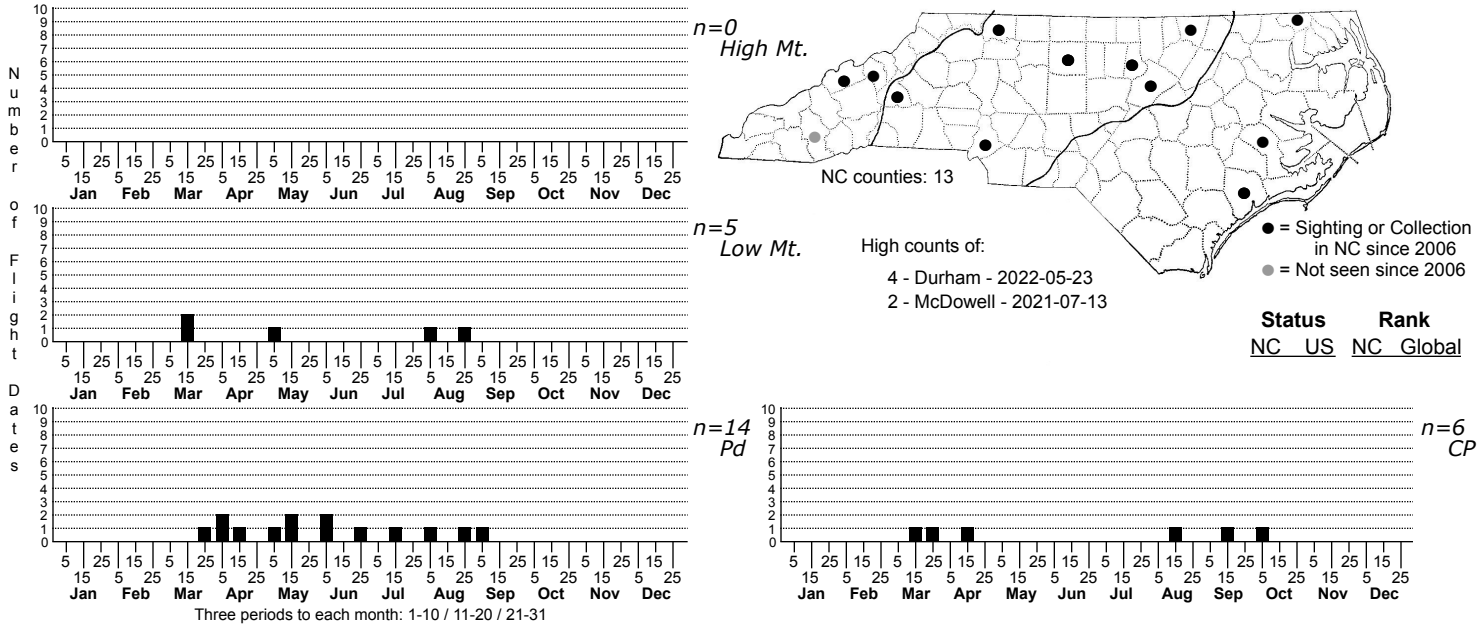
Coptotriche citrinipennella None



FAMILY: Tischeriidae SUBFAMILY: [Tischeriinae] TRIBE: [Tischeriini]
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: Coptotriche is a genus of specialized leafminers that currently consists of 27 recognized Nearctic species. Most species fall within one of two major groups. Members of the first group typically have orangish to yellowish fore wings (rarely white) and specialize on oaks and chestnuts. Members of a second group have dark gray, brown, or blackish fore wings and mostly feed on members of the Rosaceae (Braun, 1972; Eiseman, 2019).

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:
ONLINE PHOTOS:
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Braun (1972)
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Braun (1972), Eiseman (2019).

ID COMMENTS: The following is from Braun's (1972) description based on observations of 160 specimens from throughout the range of the species. The face is yellow and the scales of the tuft darken towards the tips. The thorax and forewing are pale yellow, and the wing shades to brownish orange in the apical fourth. Brownish color extends to the wing base along the extreme costal margin, and to the tornus, but varies among individuals in the extent of development. Some specimens may have a few darker scales at the apex, and the cilia are concolorous. The underside of the forewing of the male has a discal, elongated, dark brownish fuscous patch at the base. The hindwing is yellowish white in the female and grayish tinged in the male, with a brownish fuscous basal patch on the upper side that sometimes is produced as a point. The cilia are concolorous. The costal margin of the hindwing of the female is slightly convex, especially towards the base. The legs are pale yellowish, with a faint fuscous dusting outwardly. The underside of the abdomen has fuscous dusting on the basal two-thirds. Key characteristics that help distinguish this species from closely related forms include the lighter median area of the forewing (pale yellow or pale ocherous) that contrast with the darker costal and dorsal margins, the dark dusting on the apical fourth of the forewing, and the presence of a brownish fuscous basal patch on the upper surface of the hindwing of the male.

DISTRIBUTION: Braun (1972) considered Coptotriche citrinipennella to be the most widespread of the oak-feeding species. It occurs from southern Ontario and the northeastern US to as far south as eastern Texas and southern Alabama. This species is widespread in North Carolina and likely occurs statewide where suitable hosts occur.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Braun (1972) noted that there are usually three overlapping generations each year. Larvae in the final brood becomes full-grown in late summer or early autumn, then overwinter and transform to pupae in early spring. The adults emerge in April or early May.

HABITAT: Populations appear to be widely distributed is North Carolina in forested habitats with oaks.

FOOD: This species primarily uses members of the red oak group as hosts, but also uses American Chestnut (Castanea dentata). Eiseman (2019) lists the following hosts: White Oak (Q. alba), Scarlet Oak (Q. coccinea), Bear Oak (Q. ilicifolia), Shingle Oak (Q. imbricaria), Blackjack Oak (Q. marilandica), Willow Oak (Q. palustris), Northern Red Oak (Q. rubra), Post Oak (Q. stellata), Black Oak (Q. velutina), and Live Oak (Q. virginiana). As of 2024, we have specimens from American Chestnut, Southern Red Oak (Q. falcata), Black Oak, Willow Oak, Northern Red Oak, and Cherrybark Oak (Q. pagoda).

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to UV lights. Direct searches for the highly elongated leaf mines with folded leaf edges would likely yield many new locality records. Ideally, adults should be reared to verify identification since other Coptotriche also fold the leaf margins of oaks (Eiseman, 2019).

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: