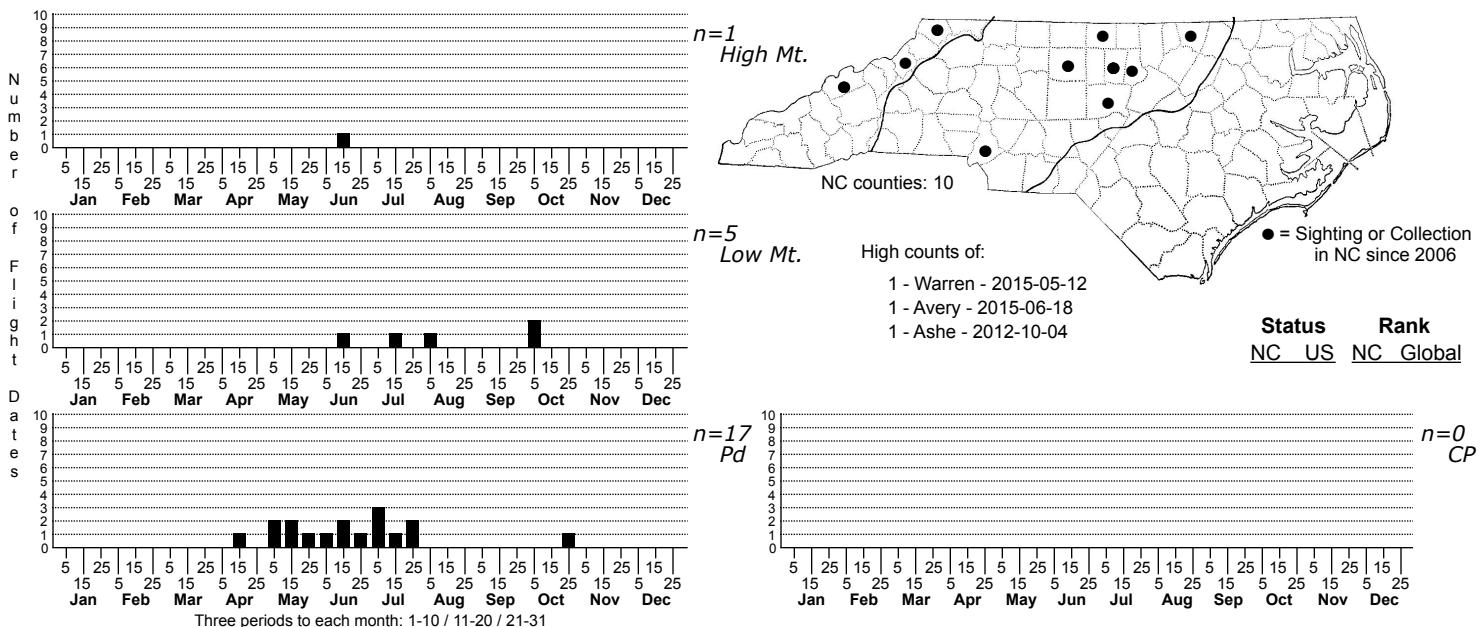


Coleophora mayrella Metallic Coleophora



FAMILY: Coleophoridae **SUBFAMILY:** Coleophorinae **TRIBE:** [Coleophorini]

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: The genus *Coleophora* is one of the most taxonomically challenging groups in North America. With only a few exceptions, most species cannot be identified based on photographs or external characters. The shape of the larval cases and host plants are very useful in identifying species, and high-quality dissections of genitalia are essential to recognize the majority of species. There are numerous species complexes with many undescribed species, and the taxonomy of Nearctic species remains largely unresolved.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984); Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: This is a distinct small moth with an iridescent brownish-green sheen. The antenna is thickened on the basal portion and boldly annulated distally. The resting adults characteristically sit with the front of the body slightly raised, and the antennae projecting forward and frequently appressed together. The following detailed description is based on that of Landry and Wright (1993). The head is silvery with a green olive brown brassy sheen. The post-ocular scales are dark brown, and the labial palp is pale gray on the inner side and olive brown on the outer side. The antenna scape is dark brown with a marked metallic brassy and purplish sheen. The proximal third to half of the flagellum is overlaid with a thick layer of dark brown scales and appears noticeably thickened. The remainder is thin and annulated with alternating dark brown and white flagellomeres. The thorax is metallic brassy green, and the wings olive brown with iridescent metallic brassy or greenish coloration. The legs are olive gray, with a silvery or brassy sheen. *Coleophora deauratella* is similar in coloration, and in having a thickened antenna base, but the proximal three-quarters or four-fifths of the flagellum is uniformly dark brown and lacks annulations.

DISTRIBUTION: *Coleophora mayrella* is native to Europe, northern Africa, and the Middle East, but has been introduced into New Zealand, North America, and South America. It is widespread throughout North America where it ranges as far north as Alaska, and as far south as Mississippi. As of 2023, our records are all from the Piedmont and Blue Ridge Mountains.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been documented in North America during most months of the year, with a seasonal peak in May through July. As of 2021, our records are from mid-May through late October.

HABITAT: This species is dependent on White Clover, which is commonly found in pastures, lawns, roadsides, fields, and other sunny sites that are often mowed or grazed.

FOOD: White Clover (*Trifolium repens*) appears to be the primary host for this species (Landry & Wright, 1993), but there are also reports from Rabbitfoot Clover (*T. arvense*) and Red Clover (*T. pratense*) (Falkovitsh, 2006). We do not have any feeding records in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights, and are active during the day where they nectar, mate, and lay eggs on the heads of White Clover.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR SNR [SNA]

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

COMMENTS: This is an introduced species that does not merit protection.