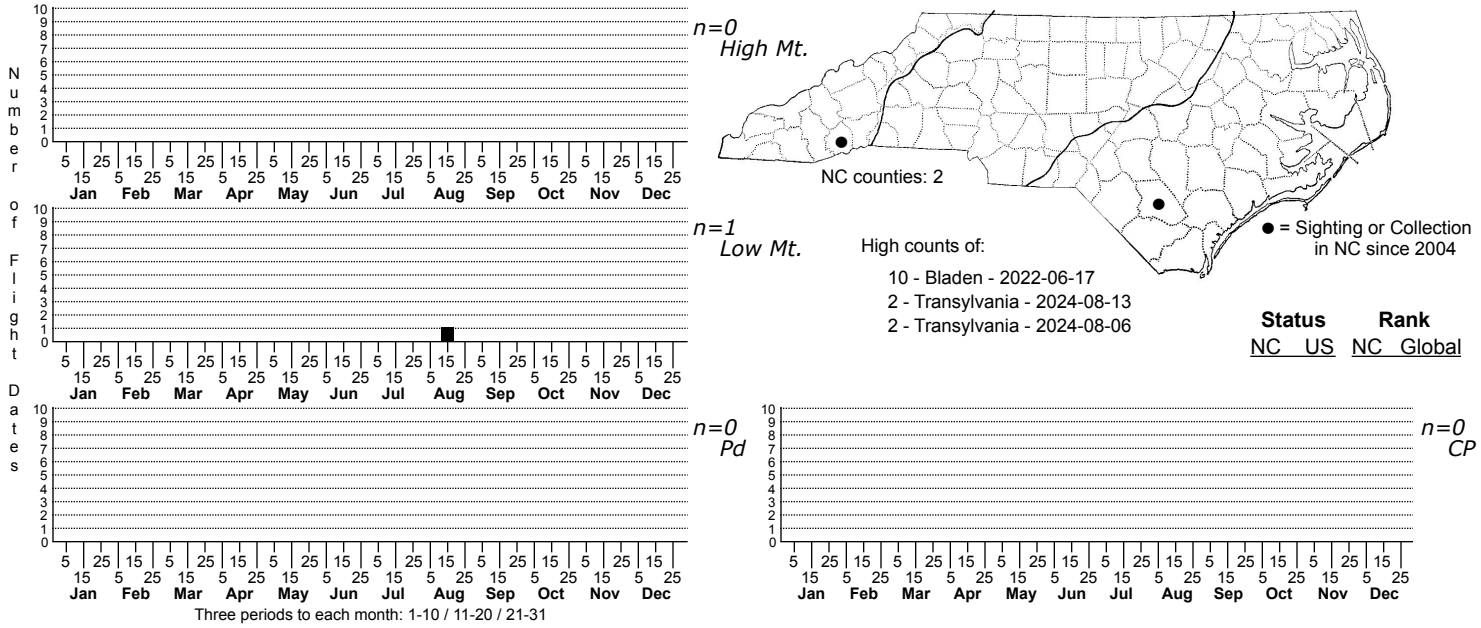
Coptotriche crataegifoliae No common name



FAMILY: Tischeriidae SUBFAMILY: TRIBE:
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 forewings (rarely white) and specialize on oaks and chestnuts, while members of the second group have dark gray, brown, or blackish forewings 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).

ID COMMENTS: This is one of several confusing Coptotriche that feed on members of the Rosaceae and that have dark-colored wings that are unmarked. The following description is based on that of Braun (1972). The face is whitish, while the head is lustrous dark bronzy with a faint purplish tinge. The antennal shaft is slightly serrate towards the tip and is ciliate throughout in the male. In the female, the shaft appears thickened on the basal third due to very short appressed cilia; these are replaced distally with short cilia that are about one-half the length of those in the outer third in the male. The forewing has a uniformly lustrous dark bronzy color, with purplish reflections that are more pronounced towards the apex. The hindwing and cilia are uniformly gray throughout except for the area near the base of the costa that has slender projecting black scales. The legs are pale gray and the hind tarsi white.

DISTRIBUTION: The range of this species is poorly documented, with only a few scattered records known from the eastern US and adjoining areas of Ontario and Quebec. As of 2024, specimens have been documented in the US from Vermont, Massachusetts, Maryland, Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Louisiana and Texas (Eiseman, 2022; iNaturalist). As of 2024, we have only two records, with one from the Coastal Plain and the other from the Blue Ridge.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The flight season is poorly documented. Local populations that Braun (1972) studied in Ohio were bivoltine, with mines appearing in June and adults emerging in late-June and early-July. A second brood appeared in the late-summer and fall, with the late-instar larvae (and perhaps the pupae) overwintering, followed by adult emergence after the spring leaf-out. Harrison (Microleps.com) noted that mines can be found in Illinois beginning in late-July. Our only records as of 2024 are for occupied mines from mid-June and mid-August.

HABITAT: Local populations are generally associated with woodlands, woodland borders, and other habitats that support hawthorns and serviceberry.

FOOD: The larvae primarily feed on several species of hawthorns (Crataegus spp.; Braun 1972; Eiseman, 2022), but have also been observed using Downy Serviceberry (Amelanchier arborea; Microleps.org) and perhaps other Amelanchier species. Eiseman (2022) also reared an adult from Mespilus germanica, which is an introduced ornamental in the Rosaceae. As of 2024, our records are for Woolly Dwarf Hawthorn (Crataegus pexa), a serviceberry (Amelanchier sp.), and Chickasaw Plum (Prunus angustifolia).

OBSERVATION_METHODS: This species is best documented by rearing adults from the host plants.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S1S3]

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: This appears to be a relatively rare species, but it likely has been under-collected in North Carolina.