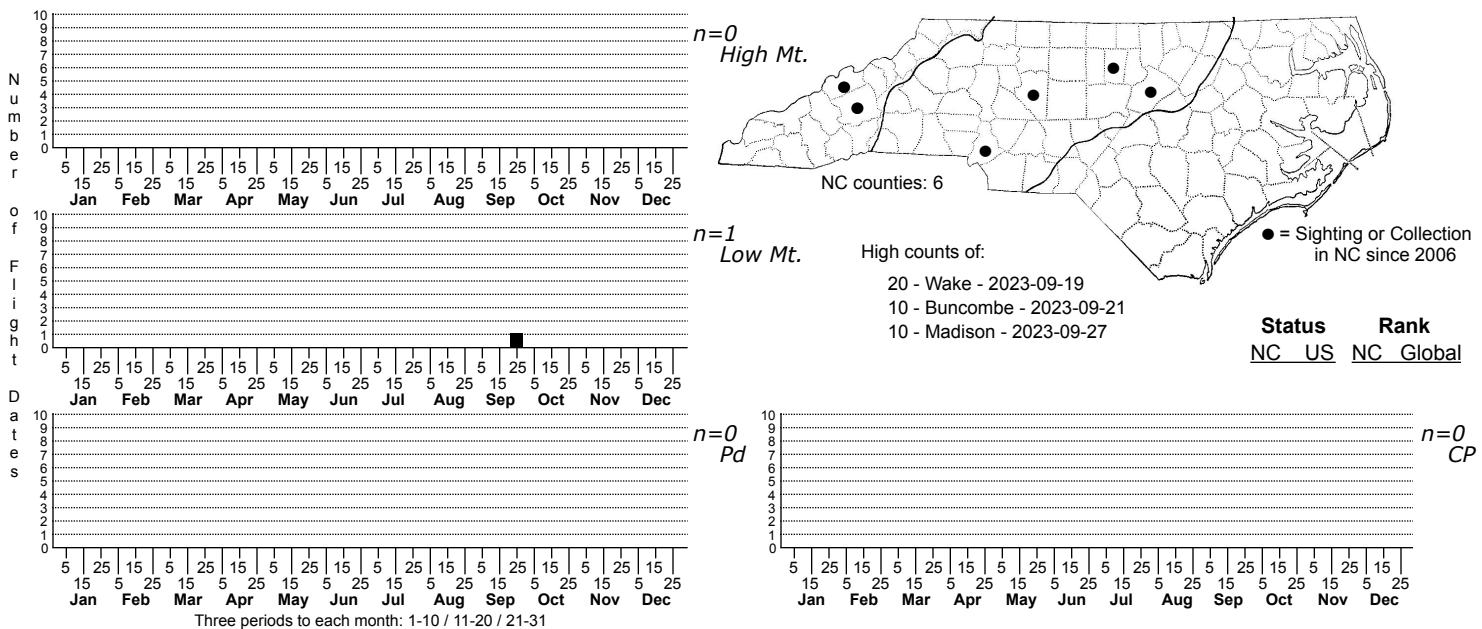


Coptotriche agrimonella None



FAMILY: Tischeriidae SUBFAMILY: TRIBE:

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: < i > Coptotriche < /i > 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); Eiseman (2022).

ID COMMENTS: This is a tiny and rather drab moth that has a white face and a dark brown head and thorax. The forewing and cilia are also dark brown. Braun (1972) noted that the forewing has lustrous, dark bronzy coloration near the base that shades to dark lustrous purple towards the apex. Whether specimens appear uniformly brown or more brownish purple as described by Braun (1972) likely depends on the incident light and reflections. The hindwing is very narrow, light brown, and usually darker in the females. The legs are dark gray, and the hind tarsi tends to be lighter colored than those of the other legs. This species is very similar to *C. aenea* and is best distinguished using genitalia. The adults of both species have most commonly been obtained by rearing and have different host species.

DISTRIBUTION: <u><i>Coptotriche agrimoniella</i></u> is restricted to eastern North America where it occurs from Vermont, Massachusetts, and extreme southern Quebec westward to Illinois and Minnesota. The range extends southward to eastern Oklahoma, eastern Kentucky and throughout the Piedmont and Appalachian region to North Carolina. This species was first discovered in North Carolina in 2022, and is now known from several sites in the Piedmont and Blue Ridge.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults appear to mostly fly from July through September in different areas of the range, with many local populations producing two or more generations. As of 2023, our limited records for occupied mines are from September.

HABITAT: Local populations are generally found in forested settings that support the host plants. They are most commonly found in bottomland hardwoods or mesic, rich woods.

FOOD: The larvae mine the leaflets of *Agrimonia* species (Braun, 1972; Eiseman, 2022). The reported hosts include Tall Hairy Agrimony (*A. gryposepala*), Swamp Agrimony (*A. parviflora*) and Woodland Agrimony (*A. rostellata*). In North Carolina, we have records for Swamp Agrimony, Woodland Agrimony and Downy Agrimony (*A. pubescens*).

OBSERVATION_METHODS: This species is most easily documented by searching for the mines on *Agrimonia* species. We recommend rearing the adults.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS:

STATE PROTECTION.

COMMENTS: This species was only recently discovered in North Carolina where it may have been overlooked for years.