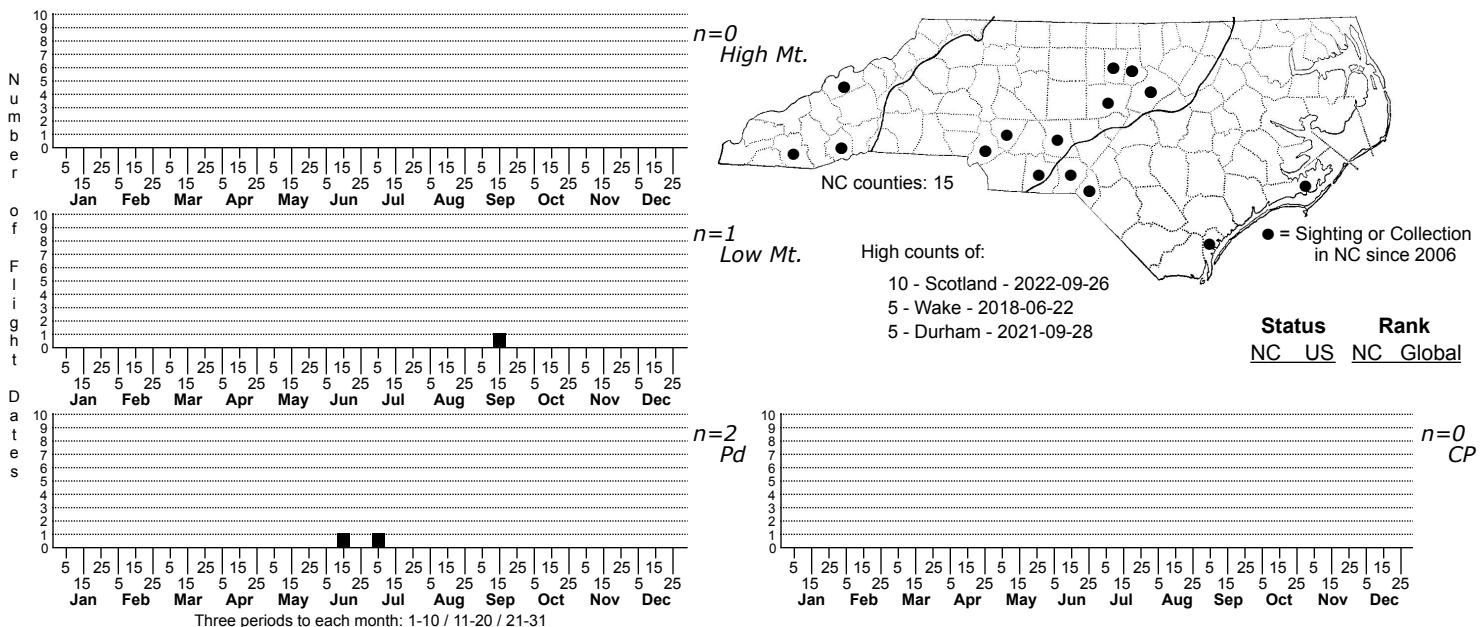


Coptotriche aenea Blackberry Leafminer Moth



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: The following is from Braun's (1972) description of adults based on studies of 59 specimens from throughout the range of the species. The face is white with a slight metallic luster, and the head is bronzy lustrous. The antennal shaft of the male has long cilia, while that of the female has very fine short cilia towards the tip. The forewing is very lustrous metallic coppery and becomes darker and slightly purplish tinged at the apex. However, the brilliancy of the luster varies considerably among individuals. The hindwing is dark bronzy purplish and the cilia are concolorous. Near the base of the costa, a line of black scales is present that scarcely projects. The legs are dark gray, and the hind tarsi are white above. The abdomen is blackish bronzy. *Coptotriche aenea* is a member of the Rosaceae-feeding group and is superficially similar to other species with brownish, drab coloration. This is the only member of this group that feeds on *Rubus* spp., and the females have fine short cilia on the antennae that are confined to the tip. Other species with ciliated antennae use host plants other than *Rubus* and have cilia of similar size throughout the entire length of the female's antenna. This species is very similar to *C. agrimonella* and is best distinguished using genitalia. The adults of both species have most commonly been obtained by rearing and have different host species.

DISTRIBUTION: *Coptotriche aenea* occurs throughout much of eastern North America. Populations have been documented from southern Canada to as far south as Texas and Florida (Braun, 1972; Eiseman, 2019). We have only a few records for North Carolina as of 2019 that are from the Blue Ridge and Coastal Plain (BugGuide). Additional searches for leaf mines will likely yield many more records.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Records from throughout the range of *C. aenea* indicate that adults have multiple broods and are active throughout most of the growing season. Larvae in fall broods may overwinter and pupate during the spring warm-up. Both of our records from the lower mountains as of 2019 were for overwintering larvae.

HABITAT:

FOOD: The larvae mine the leaves of several species of *Rubus*, including Allegheny Blackberry (*R. allegheniensis*), Northern Dewberry (*R. flagellaris*), Pennsylvania Blackberry (*R. pensylvanicus*), Swamp Dewberry (*R. hispida*), Black Raspberry (*R. occidentalis*), Dwarf Red Blackberry (*R. pubescens*), and Southern Dewberry (*R. trivialis*) (Eiseman, 2022). In North Carolina, we have records for Pennsylvania Blackberry and Southern Dewberry.

OBSERVATION METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S2S3

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: