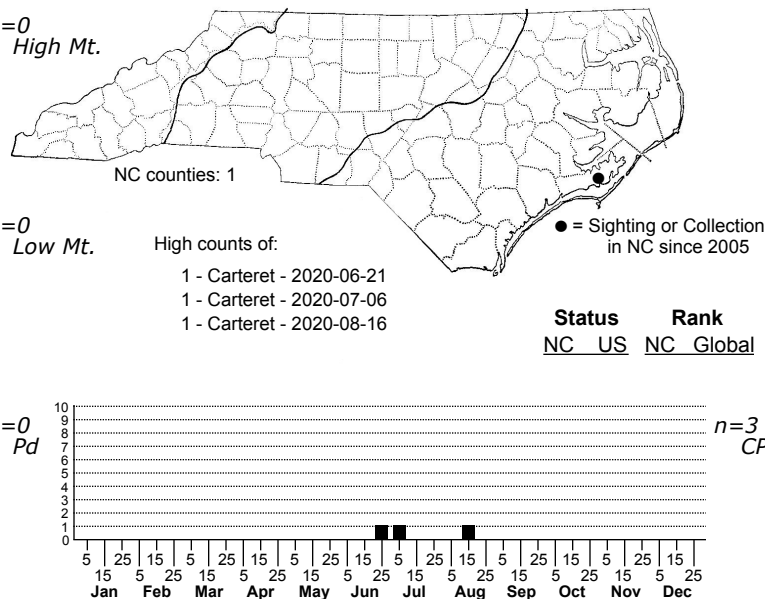


Walshia elegans None



FAMILY: Cosmopterigidae SUBFAMILY: Chrysopeliinae TRIBE:
 TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:
 ONLINE PHOTOS:
 TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Hodges (1978)
 TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The dorsum of the head and thorax are darker gray. The frons is also dark gray with shining yellow and purple reflections. The labial palp is nearly unicolorous dark gray, with the scale bases pale. The antenna is nearly black, with the distal nine segments white or yellowish white. The forewings and abdomen are unicolorous grayish black to dark grayish brown. The foreleg is very dark gray, with the apex of the fourth tarsal segment and entire fifth segment medium gray. The midleg is similar, but with the apices of tarsal segments pale gray. The hindleg is similar to the midleg, but slightly paler. The apex of the tibia, the base and apex of the first tarsal segment, and the apices of the remaining segments are pale gray. Hodges (1978) note that *W. elegans* is very similar to *W. particornella*. It can be separated from *W. particornella* by the pale apices of the tarsal segments and the quadrate valvae. Also, the scale tufts of the forewings seem to be better developed than in *W. particornella*. This species is best identified using genitalia.

DISTRIBUTION: This rarely collected species has been found in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and North Carolina. As of 2021, we have three specimens that are all from a single site along the coast.

FLIGHT COMMENT: As of 2021, our three records are from late-June through mid-August. Hodges (1978) reported one specimen from 13 July (Arkansas) and a second from 13 September (Louisiana).

HABITAT: Our records are from a dune area and sandy spoil area at the coast.

FOOD: Hodges (1978) reported that *Walshia* species feed on stem tissue within galls, and usually on legumes. We have no specific information concerning the hosts of this species.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights, but only a few adults have ever been collected.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR SU

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: This appears to be a rare species, with perhaps only six specimens or so known to science. Ours are from a single site in a state park.