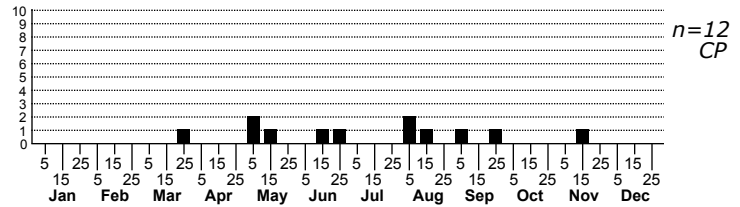
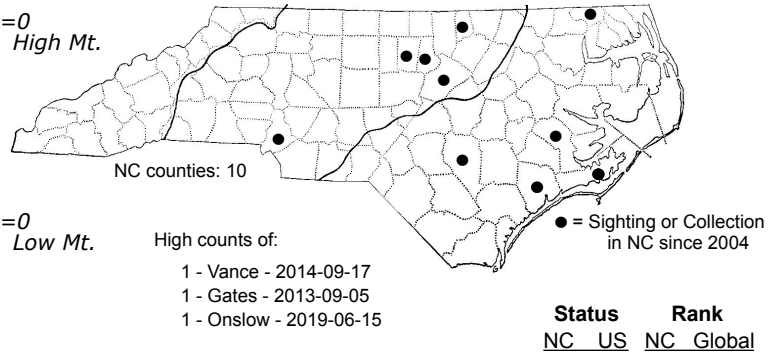
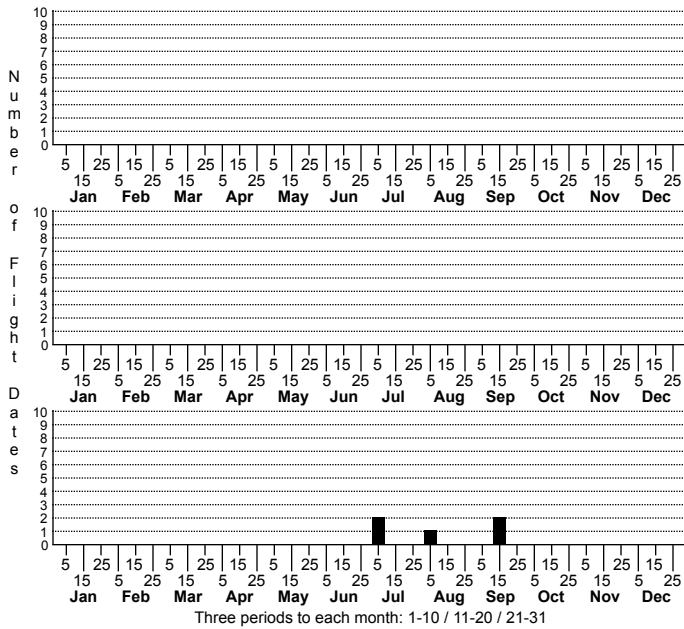


*Aristotelia fungivorella* No common name



FAMILY: Gelechiidae SUBFAMILY: Gelechiinae TRIBE: Gelechiini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: The genus *Aristotelia* contains over 150 species of small moths that are found worldwide, with around 34 species in North America.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Clemens (1864); Forbes (1932)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The following description is based in part on Forbes (1932). The head and thorax are light brown and similar in color to much of the ground color of the forewing. The antenna is uniformly pale, with brownish annulations along its entire length. The third segment of the labial palp is narrow and only slightly longer than the thicker second segment. The third segment has three transverse blackish bands on a pale or white ground. The patterning on the forewing is rather complex. The ground is typically light brown, but often with medium brown dusting in places. There are no conspicuous white markings as seen in some congeners. There are three large, dark brown marks. These consist of a broad, slightly oblique bar that begins on the costal at about one-fifth and extends nearly to the dorsal margin, a similar bar at about two-fifths that extends beyond the middle, and a more broad-based costal patch that narrows before terminating near the middle. The costal patch usually has a region of pale whitish wash behind it. The second bar is sinuous and curves both at the costa and broadly towards the middle, where it curves back towards the costal patch. A thin margin of pale scales is usually evident on the posterior edge of the first bar and the anterior edge of the second. In addition, a thin, sinuous, pale longitudinal line that is often fragmented extends from the terminus of the second bar to the end of the dark costal patch, and sometimes beyond. The apical fringe is subcaudate, and an apical spot is not present as seen in some congeners. The apical fringe is crossed by a curved, longitudinal black streak (sometimes poorly developed), and a pale to white bar that extends from near the tornus to the tip of the fringe. The lower legs are dark brown to blackish with whitish annulations.

DISTRIBUTION: *Aristotelia fungivorella* is widely distributed across extreme northern Mexico, and in many areas of North America where willows are present. Specimens have been documented in California and throughout most of southern Canada. In the eastern US, it occurs from the New England states southward to the Gulf Coast, and westward to central Texas, Oklahoma, Illinois and Minnesota. As of 2021, all of our records are from the Coastal Plain and eastern Piedmont.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Adults have been observed from April through October in areas from outside of North Carolina, with a seasonal peak in June through August. As of 2021, our records are from late March through mid-September.

HABITAT: This species appears to specialize on willows, which are strongly affiliated with wetlands such as pond and lake margins, floodplain forests with openings, ditches, freshwater marshes, and other hydric sites.

FOOD: Larvae feed on willows (Clemens, 1864; Busck, 1903a; Forbes, 1923; Prentice, 1966; Robinson et al., 2010), but possibly only on galls that are created by other insects.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights, and have been beaten from willow branches where they often rest. More information is needed on the life history of the larval stage, so we encourage individuals to seek out larvae on willows.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S3S4

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

COMMENTS: We currently do not have sufficient information on the distribution and abundance of this species within the state to assess its conservation status.