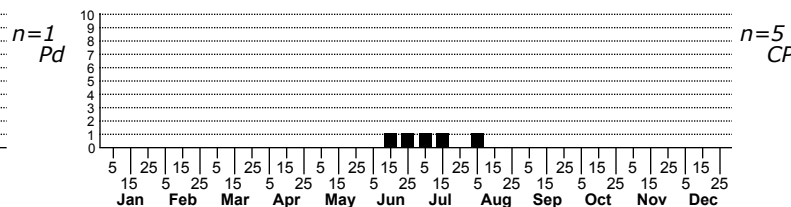
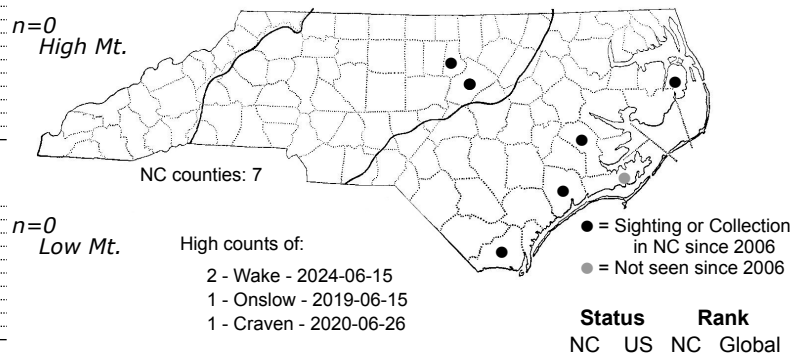
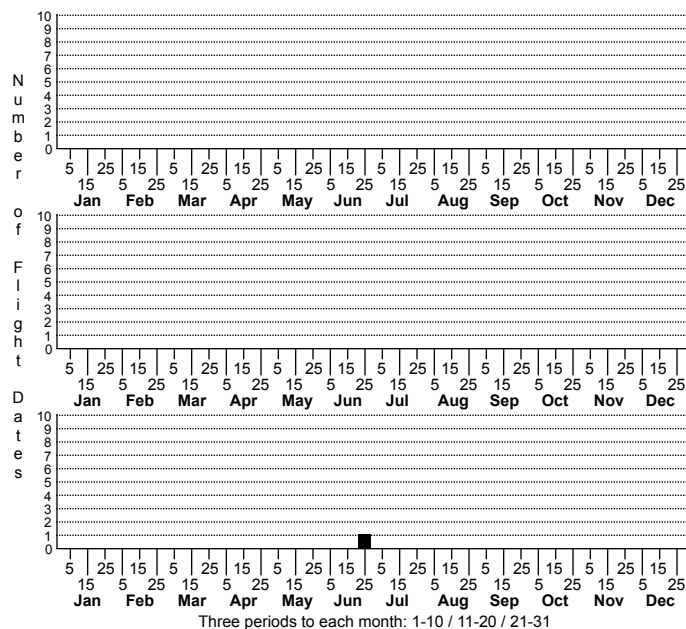


Aristotelia ivae No common name



FAMILY: Gelechiidae SUBFAMILY: TRIBE:
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Busck (1900)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The following description is based in part on the original description by Busck (1900). The recurved labial palps are very long and acute, with the pale apical segment clearly longer than the second, and with two black bars. The second segment is thickened with appressed pale scales, and has three black or dark-brown bars on the outside. The face, head, and thorax are light brownish-gray with a dark, central, longitudinal line on the head, and three lines on the thorax. The antenna is finely serrated and dark fuscous with white annulations, while the tegula is dark-brown.

The forewing patterning is complex, with the most conspicuous marks being two dark brown fasciae that are separated by contrasting whitish zones with dark dusting. The first is a band that begins on the costal near the base and slants posteriorly before narrowing and terminating at about two-thirds the wing depth. The second is a broad band that begin on the costa just before one-half and terminates at about the same point as the first. It tends to be about the same width throughout its length and has a posteriorly directed hook at the end. Both of the bands often consists of black and caramel-brown regions, and are narrowly margined with pale whitish scales. The second fascia is followed by an indistinct, light-brown, triangular mark at around three-fourths the wing length. Immediately behind this mark there is a pair of whitish costal and dorsal marks that are separated by a short black dash. The interfascial whitish zones with dark dusting continue to the yellowish-tan inner margin where they merge. The fringe has a light tan region at the tornus that adjoins a large, dark-gray patch. From there, a narrower outer zone of dark-gray extends to the apex. A white patch is present below this that has a short, dark-gray to blackish, transverse dash. The hindwing is brown, and the legs are banded with blackish-gray and white.

<i>Aristotelia ivae</i> is generally similar to <i>A. fungivorella</i> and <i>A. lespedezae</i>, and is most easily distinguished by the dark lines on the head and thorax that are missing on the other species. It also lacks any pinkish or red coloration on the forewing, and has a distinctive pattern on the fringe.

DISTRIBUTION: <i>Aristotelia ivae</i> is mostly restricted to the southeastern Coastal Plain, with the range extending from central and eastern Texas eastward along the Gulf Coast to all of Florida, and northward along coastal regions to New York and Rhode Island. There also is one isolated record for southern Nova Scotia. The host plant (<i>Baccharis halimifolia</i>) was originally thought to be restricted to coastal habitats, but has expanded its range inward in recent decades due to the widespread creation of disturbed habitats by human activities. It is likely that the range of <i>Aristotelia ivae</i> will also expand in the future in association with the expansion of the range of its host plant. As of 2025, we have two site records from the eastern Piedmont that may reflect range expansions, with the remainder from the lower Coastal Plain.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been found in most months of the year in different areas of the range. Populations outside of Florida and Texas mostly fly from June through September. As of 2025, our records are from June and early-August.

HABITAT: Local populations are found in the vicinity of Groundsel-tree. This species is commonly associated with brackish coastal wetlands, but has colonized numerous types of disturbed habitats farther inland.

FOOD: Reported hosts include Groundsel-tree (<i>Baccharis halimifolia</i>), Jara Dulce (<i>B. neglecta</i>; Boldt and Robbins, 1987) and possibly Bigleaf Marsh-elder (<i>Iva frutescens</i>; Busck, 1900), although the latter is very likely incorrect and the result of a misidentification (Shropshire and Tallamy, 2025).

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights and the larvae can be found in leaf folds and leaf ties on Groundsel-tree.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S3]

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: This species appears to be expanding its range inland as <i>Baccharis halimifolia</i> invades westward and will likely be more secure in the future than it is today.