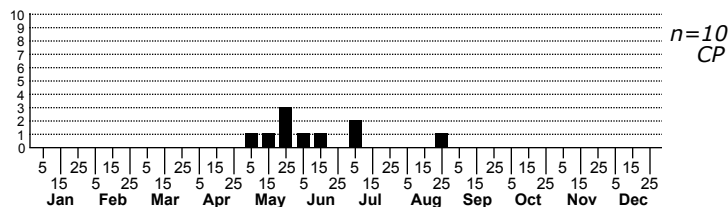
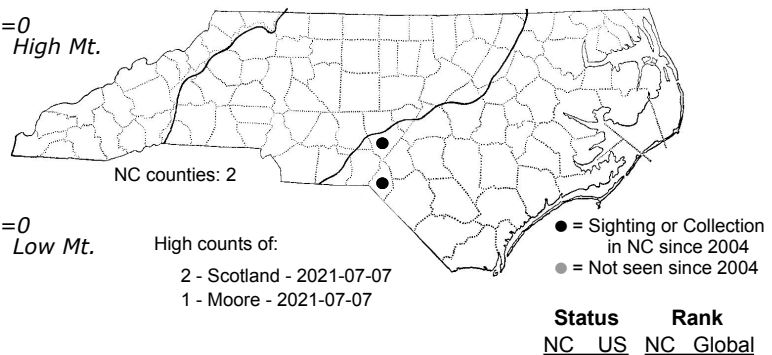


*Aristotelia monilella* No common name



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: MPG

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Barnes and Busck (1920)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: This is a distinctively marked *Aristotelia*, with three bold white marks on the forewing. The following is based on the original description by Barnes and Busck (1920). The labial palp is white, and the second joint has an indistinct brown annulation near the tip. The terminal joint has two broad, blackish brown annulations. The face, head and collar are yellowish white, and the thorax is golden brown. The forewing ground color is light golden brown. At the basal fourth there is a white transverse streak that is outwardly oblique. It is widest on the costa and becomes attenuated towards the dorsum, where it does not quite reach the dorsal edge. On the middle of the costa there is a triangular white spot that is equilateral, and reaches to the middle of the wing. At the apical fourth there is an inwardly directed triangular white streak that reaches to about the middle of the wing. All of these white marks terminate on the dorsal edge in small white spots. The apical and terminal edges of the wing are broadly velvety black, with conspicuous tufts of metallic blue scales around the margin. The cilia are dark brown with white tips. The undersides of both wings are brown, and both have a large white spot at the apical fourth. The abdomen is black, with each joint tipped with silvery white. The legs are dark brown, with white bars and tarsal annulations.

DISTRIBUTION: *Aristotelia monilella* was described in 1920 from specimens collected at Southern Pines and has not been collected in North Carolina since then until 2021, when three specimens were documented in Moore and Scotland Cos. This species has been recorded at a few other sites in the eastern US, including northern Illinois, southeastern Kentucky, and the Florida panhandle.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The flight season extends from April through June.

HABITAT: The habitat was not reported by Barnes and Busck (1920). As of 2022, all of our records are from the Sandhills and associated with xeric communities.

FOOD: The host plants are unknown.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: The adults appear to only rarely visit lights, although all three of our records are for specimens at lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS:

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

COMMENTS: This species was described from North Carolina and until 2021 had not been seen in the state for over 100 years. The recent rediscovery of the species in the Sandhills indicates that extant populations are still present and perhaps restricted to the Sandhills.