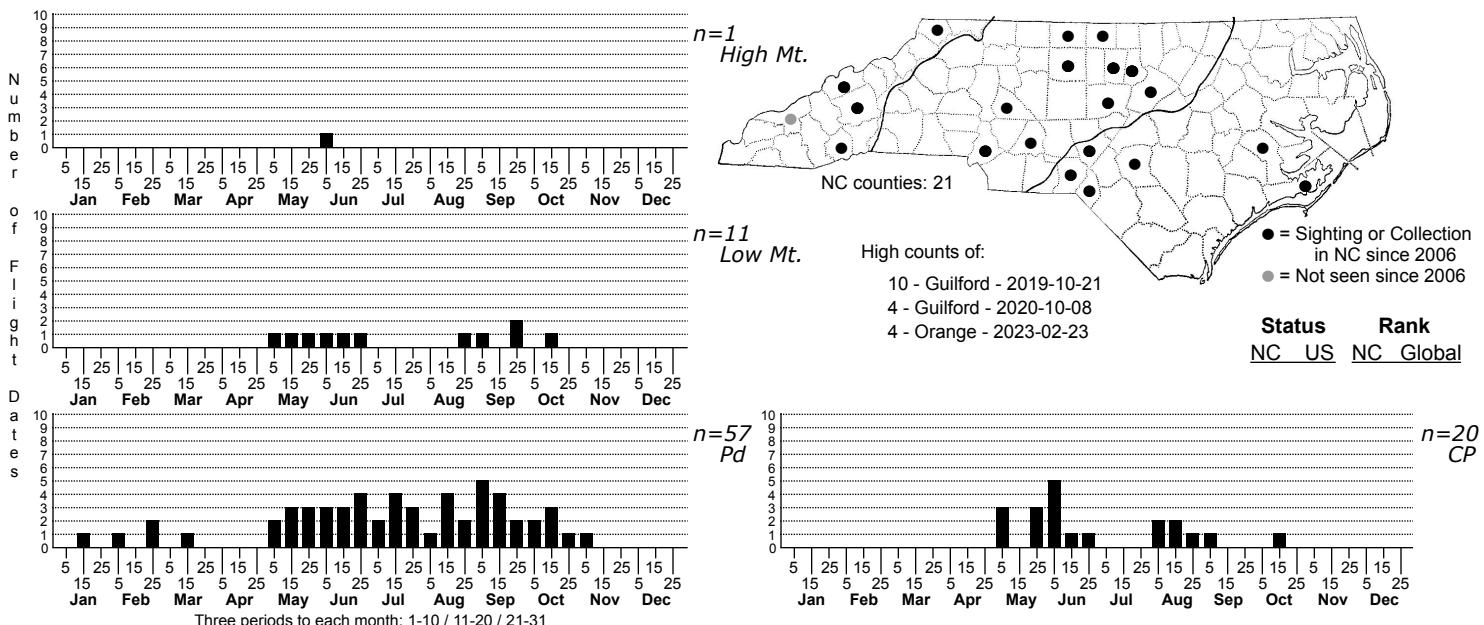


Aristotelia roseosuffusella Pink-washed Aristotelia



FAMILY: Gelechiidae SUBFAMILY: Anomologinae TRIBE:

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: Covell (1984); Beadle and Leckie (2012); Leckie and Beadle (2018)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Clemens (1860); Forbes (1932)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: This is one of the easier *Aristotelia* species to identify, with its boldly contrasting black and white barring, white apical spot, and a pair of white costal and dorsal marks just before the apex. The following detailed description is based on that of Clemens (1860) and Forbes (1932). The head and thorax are yellowish brown, and the labial palp is elongated and extends almost to the thorax. The third segment is very long relative to the second, and has fine, irregular black and white longitudinal stripes rather than distinct annuli as seen in some *Aristotelia* species. A transverse black and white ring is present at the base of the palp. The antenna has uniformly alternating dark and white annulations along its entire length.

The forewing is yellowish brown along the inner margin and is often suffused with roseate coloration. The yellowish brown coloration extends to the wing base, where it often grades into or is replaced by a whitish band. Three conspicuous dark brown marks are present on the wing that are separated by contrasting whitish zones. 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 begins 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. A shorter and more triangular dark costal mark is at three-fifths that often merges with the yellowish brown coloration on the dorsal half. A black dot is present where they meet. Immediately behind the dark costal mark there is a pair of whitish costal and dorsal marks that are separated by a short black dash. The white mark at the tornus is often heavily suffused with roseate coloration, and a white spot is present at the wing tip. The area between the paired white marks and the terminal spot is filled with yellowish brown to dark brown scales. The cilia are light gray to grayish brown with a darker line near the apex. The hindwing is dark fuscous-gray and the cilia fuscous. The legs are dark brown to blackish with contrasting white annulations.

DISTRIBUTION: *Aristotelia roseosuffusella* is widely distributed in North America and possibly into adjoining areas of Mexico. The range includes almost all of southern Canada from British Columbia to Prince Edward Island, as well as California, Colorado, and all of the eastern US. We have records from all three physiographic provinces. This species appears to be rare in the Coastal Plain, relatively common in the Piedmont, and somewhat uncommon in the mountains.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Adults are active nearly year-round in Florida, and from April through October in other areas outside of North Carolina. As of 2021, our records extend from mid-January through early November, with most between early May and late-October. There appear to be two or more broods per year.

HABITAT: This species feeds primarily on legumes such as lespedezas and tick-trefoils. Most species are found in sunny to partially shaded habitats. These include the margins of agricultural fields, residential neighborhoods, roadsides, meadows, old fields, and open woodlands such as coastal pine forests.

FOOD: Members of several genera of legumes appear to be the primary hosts (Eiseman, 2019, 2022). The known hosts include species of *Dalea*, *Desmodium*, and *Lespedeza*, including Roundhead Lespedeza (*Lespedeza capitata*). A report of this species mining the leaves of Red Clover (*Trifolium pratense*) needs further verification (Eiseman, 2019), and records of it using *Rhus coriaria*, and a willow (Prentice, 1966; Robinson et al. 2010) are highly suspect.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights. More information is needed on host plant use in North Carolina, and we recommend searching for larvae and rearing the adults.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S4S5

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

COMMENTS: This species appears to be secure within the state based on its statewide distribution and a substantial number of records.