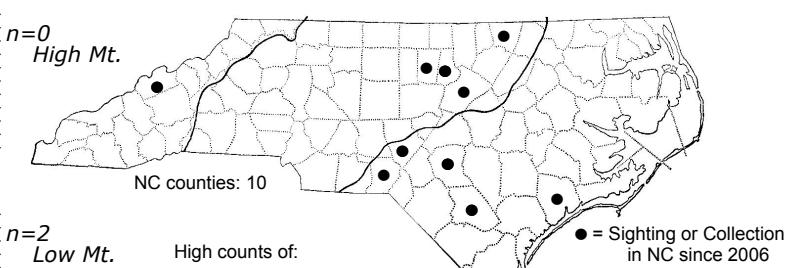
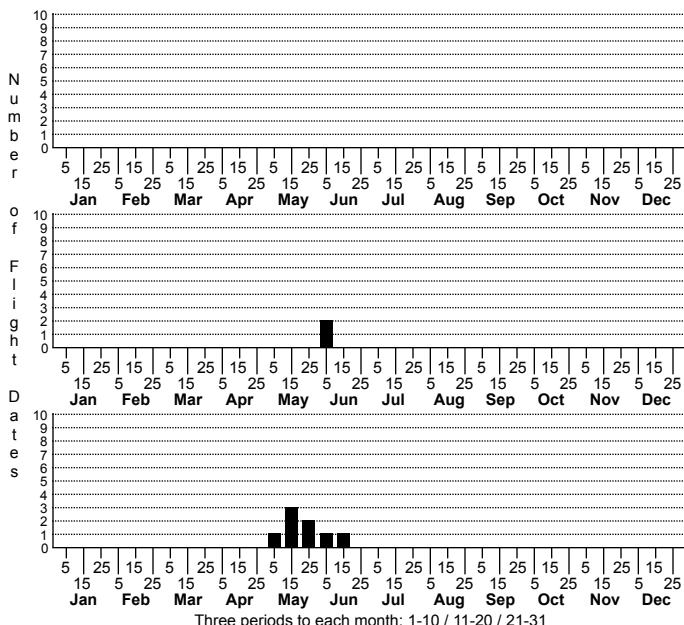


Exoteleia chillcotti Chilcott's Coleotechnites Moth



Status	Rank		
NC	US	NC	Global

n=15
CP

FAMILY: Gelechiidae SUBFAMILY: Gelechiinae TRIBE: Gelechiini
TAXONOMIC COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Freeman (1963)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Freeman (1963)

ID COMMENTS: <i>Exoteleia chillcotti</i> is best identified by its white head, white thorax, and three wide, golden-brown bands on the forewing with broad regions of whitish scales in-between. The following detailed description is mostly from that of Freeman (1963), based on the rearing of a large series of adults from Longleaf Pine in central Louisiana.

The antenna is sordid white with dark brown bands. The labial palp is white, with the second segment having brown scales outwardly, and the terminal segment having a sub-median and sub-apical dark-brown band. The head is shining white, and the thorax white with a few light-brown scales. The forewing has four golden-brown marks that include a broad basal, sub-median and post-median band, and a subapical patch. The apical region and the areas between the bands contain white scales with blackish or brownish tips that produce a finely striated appearance. In the region of the fold there are three, black-tipped, raised scale patches (dots), with one at the outer edge of the basal band, one at the outer edge of the sub-median band, and one on the inner edge of the post-median band. Three or four black dots are often present around the apex, and the fringe is whitish, with a double band of dark lines below the outer margin on unworn specimens. The hindwing is whitish and the fringe pale-fawn. The tibiae and tarsi are black with white bands.

This species resembles members of the <i>E. pinifoliella</i> complex, but differs in having broader, more striated, whitish regions between the darker bands; reduced golden-brown bands; and a white head and thorax. Freeman (1963) noted that the frons of the pupa of <i>E. chillcotti</i> is smooth, while that of members of the <i>E. pinifoliella</i> complex have a small, sharply pointed tubercle. The male genitalia are also distinctive, with the gnathos having a considerably developed median hook (Bennett, 1954).

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Freeman (1963) reported that the adults fly from late-April to early-May at his study site in central Louisiana. As of 2025, our records extend from mid-April through early-July.

HABITAT: The larvae feed on pine needles and are generally associated with pine or mixed hardwood-pine forests.

FOOD: Longleaf Pine (<i>Pinus palustris</i>) appears to be the primary host, but the presence of <i>E. chillcotti</i> in areas of the state that lack Longleaf Pine suggests that other long-needled pines are used. Pitch Pine (<i>P. rigida</i>) is the likely host at a site in Madison County where this species has been taken.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights and the larvae can be found mining the needles of pines.

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: