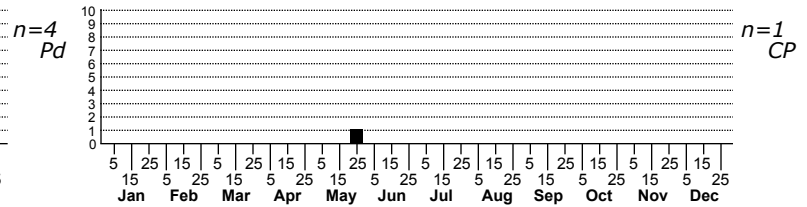
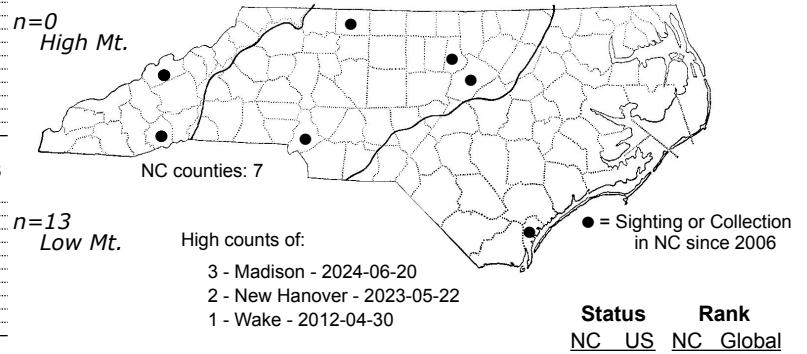
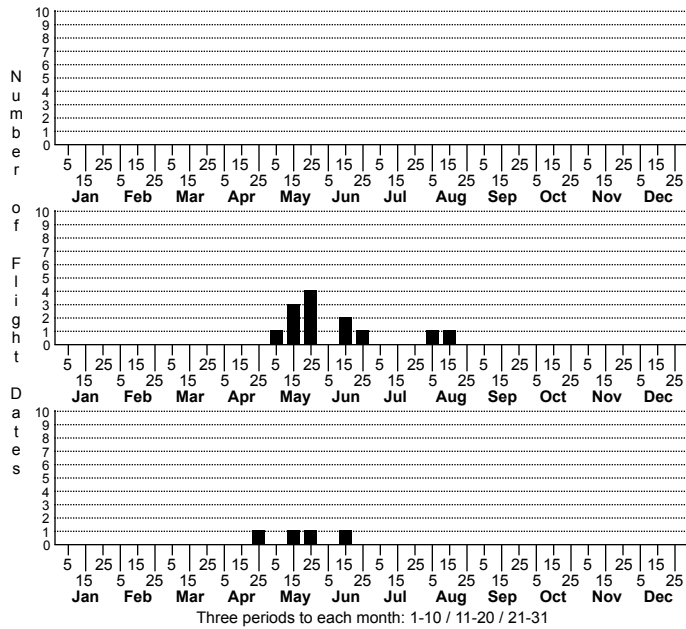


Exoteleia new species 1 Gray-headed Pine Needleminer Moth



FAMILY: Gelechiidae SUBFAMILY: Gelechiinae TRIBE:
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: This appears to be an undescribed species that is found in the eastern US (Hodges, 1985). It is relatively small and dark, with a warm, rich, reddish-brown ground color on the forewing that is marked with three narrow, silvery-gray striae. The head and thorax are gray, which helps to distinguish this species from other members of the *E. pinifoliella* complex that tend to be larger, to have a more whitish head and thorax, and to be lighter colored. Administrators at the Maryland Biodiversity Project noted that specimens of this form are curated in the USNM collection (as of 2019) as "Exoteleia sp.", and are separate from the similar Pine Needleminer Moth, which has a white head and thorax as curated.

DISTRIBUTION: Hodges (1985) reported specimens from New Jersey and New York, southward to coastal South Carolina and the southern Appalachians. There is also one specimen from Arkansas. As of 2025, our records are mostly from the Blue Ridge and Piedmont.

FLIGHT COMMENT: As of 2025, our records are from early-May through mid-August, with most adults flying during May and June.

HABITAT:

FOOD: The hosts are undocumented, but are presumably pines.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS:

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: