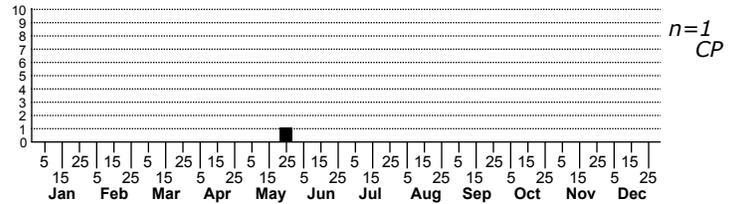
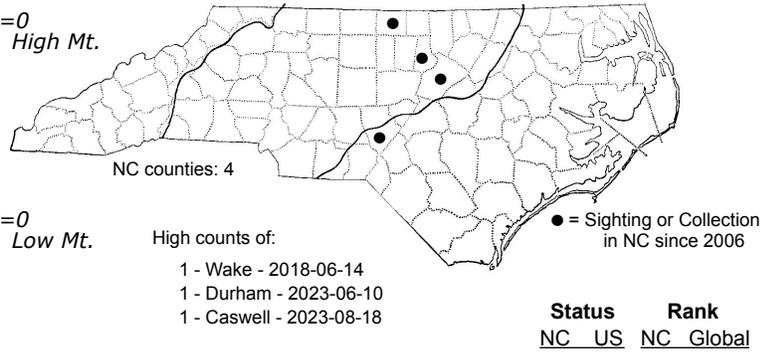
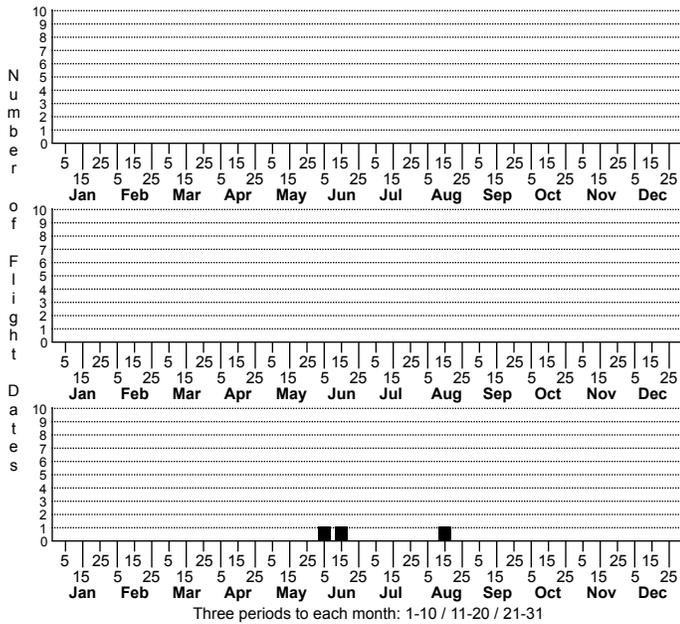


*Pseudotelphusa fuscopunctella* None



FAMILY: Gelechiidae SUBFAMILY: TRIBE:

TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS: *Pseudotelphusa* species in eastern North America constitute a taxonomically challenging group, with several described species that have similar patterning, along with one or more species that are likely undescribed. Little effort has been put forth to correlate DNA barcoding with external morphology and genitalia, so there is still much uncertainty in this regard. Many of our assignments of specimens to species are provisional and will remain so until additional information becomes available that will clarify the taxonomic status of populations in North Carolina.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: *Pseudotelphusa fuscopunctella* is a small, brownish to grayish-brown moth with three incomplete, darker bands on the forewing and a boldly banded labial palp. The following description is based in part on that of Clemens (1863). The second segment of the labial palp is dark fuscous, while the terminal segment is gray, with a prominent black ring near the middle and a second just below the tip. The antenna is dark fuscous, and the head and thorax gray with scattered darker scales. The forewing ground color varies from gray to light brown and is speckled with darker scales. The ground is overlain with three black marks that include, 1) a broad, outwardly-oblique, sub-basal band that extends from the costa and terminates just before reaching the inner margin, 2) a black spot or blotch on the costa near the middle, and 3) a similar spot on the costa at around three-fourths the wing length. All of the marks have irregular, diffuse margins. One or two smaller, diffuse, black spots with pale scales along the margin are often found inward from the second and third costal marks to produce two fragmented bands that parallel each other and the more prominent sub-basal band. The fringe is a shade lighter than the forewing ground color and has three or four faint, darker blotches at the base. The hindwing is light brown or grayish-brown with a concave outer margin and a prominent, elongated, concolorous fringe. The pattern on individuals can vary substantially, particularly with regards to the degree to which the three dark bands on the forewing are expressed.

*Pseudotelphusa fuscopunctella* can be confused with several other *Pseudotelphusa* that have similar patterning and we recommend examining genitalia for accurate determinations. This species has an overall brown color, while most of our others have a grayer or whiter ground color.

DISTRIBUTION: *Pseudotelphusa fuscopunctella* is found throughout much of the eastern US, from Maine southward to southern Florida, and westward to Louisiana, Arkansas, Indiana and Illinois. As of 2025, we have only a few records, with one from the Sandhills and the others from the eastern Piedmont.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT:

FOOD: Host plants are poorly documented. In North Carolina, Tracy Feldman has reared a larva from Post Oak (*Quercus stellata*).

OBSERVATION\_METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS:

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: