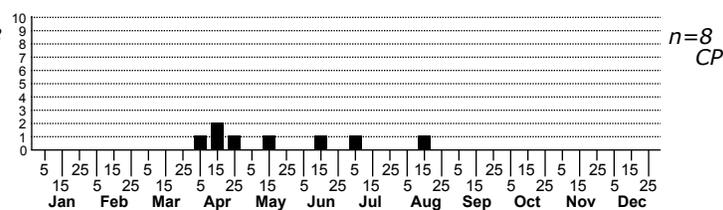
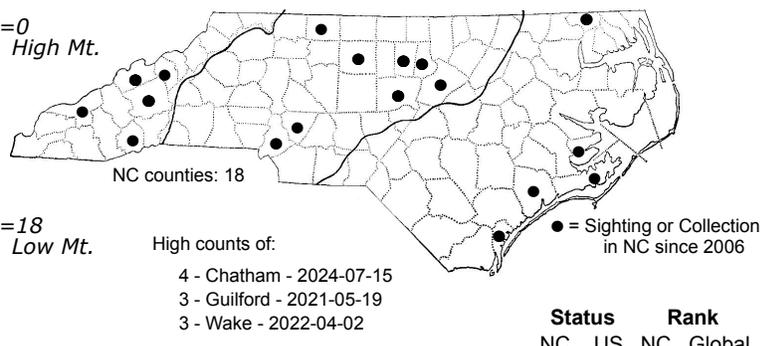
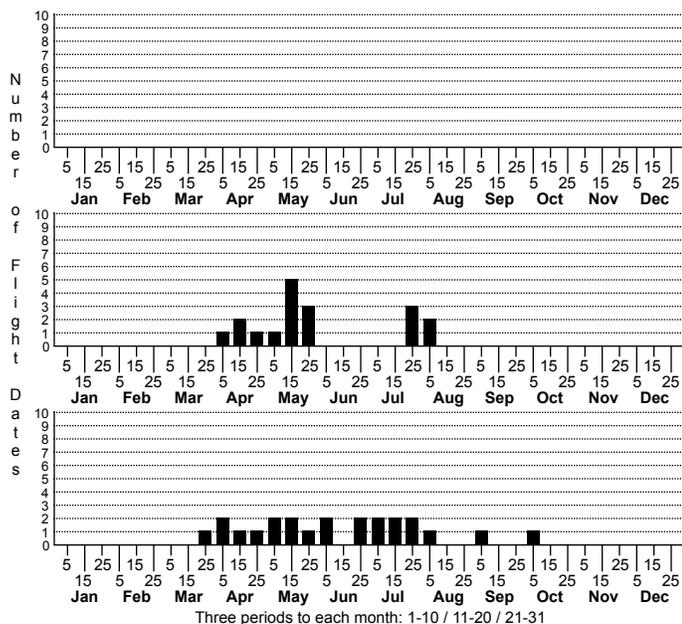


*Pseudotelphusa quercinigracella* None



FAMILY: Gelechiidae SUBFAMILY: Gelechiinae 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. *Pseudotelphusa quercinigracella* may be a species complex, with seven BINS currently recognized on BOLD. Our assignment of North Carolina specimens to this species is best treated as provisional until additional taxonomic studies are completed on this group.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The following description is based in part on that of Forbes (1923). The head, thorax and ground color of the forewing vary from powdery-gray to light brown. The second segment of the labial palp has three very narrow dark rings at the base, middle, and apex, while the terminal segment has subterminal, middle and basal rings that are more prominent. The antenna has alternating dark brown and pale annulations. The forewing has a heavy, outwardly-curved, black bar that extends from the costa just before the wing base to the fold. The bar sometimes has an apically-projecting tooth or line near its terminus, and has two large scale tufts. Two costal spots are present at around one-half and three-fifths the wing length. The first has one or two black dots inwardly that are often margined with a few tan scales, while the second spot has a pair of similar dots that are often fused to form a short, curved, black discal bar that may also have a few tan scales. Blackish specks are often evident in the subterminal area, and the fringe is ashy-gray. In addition to the larger marks, resting specimens usually have a transverse line of four black dots that extend from the wing base across the thorax, where there are two, to the second wing base. Most specimens lack a series of 6-7 black dots that extend around the apex as seen in some of our *Pseudotelphusa* species. The foreleg is black with four white metatarsal rings, while the hindwing is light smoky-gray.

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT:

FOOD: The larvae feed on oaks (Forbes, 1923; Robinson et al., 2010), with the reported hosts including Blackjack Oak (*Quercus marilandica*) and Water Oak (*Q. nigra*). In North Carolina, Charley Eiseman has a rearing record (BugGuide, 2017) in North Carolina from Swamp Chestnut Oak (*Q. michauxii*), and red-banded larvae that appear to be this species have also been found on White Oak and Northern Red Oak.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights and the larvae can be found in leaf ties on oaks.

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: