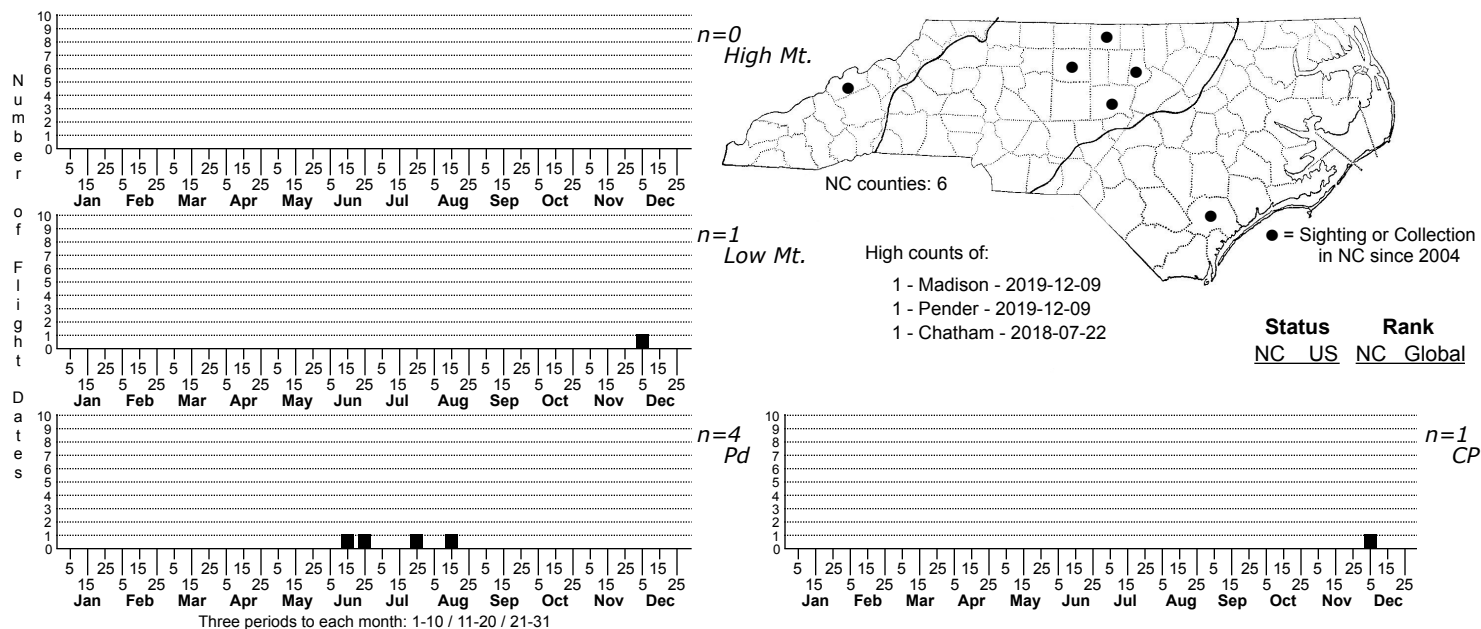


*Gelechia albisparsella* No common name



FAMILY: Gelechiidae SUBFAMILY: Gelechiinae TRIBE:  
TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Chambers (1872)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Chambers (1872)

ID COMMENTS: This is a small brown moth with a recurved labial palp and very few markings. The following is based in part on the description by Chambers (1872, p. 146). The head, thorax, antenna, upper abdomen, and ground color of the forewing are fuscous and concolorous. The thorax often has a tiny dark spot at the posterior tip. The second joint of the labial palp has elongated, dark-brown, bushy scales. The third joint is smooth and brown, and often has a somewhat lighter tip. The forewing is unmarked except for a small dark spot with a few surrounding white scales just before one-half the wing length. A second spot is present at the end of the disc at about two-thirds, and is often indistinct or missing. Individuals sometimes have an additional spot along the inner margin that is slightly anterior to the first spot. On the apical fifth there is an indistinct whitish narrow fascia that is sometimes incomplete. A zone of darker dusting is present immediately anterior to the fascia. In addition, a narrow longitudinal band of dark dusting is present along the basal half of the costa.

DISTRIBUTION: *Gelechia albisparsella* occurs in the eastern US from Pennsylvania, Maryland and Ohio southward to Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. The range extends westward to northern Indiana and Illinois and Missouri. This species appear to be uncommon in North Carolina, but has been found in all three physiological provinces.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been collected during most months of the year in different areas of the range. Late autumn and late winter records suggest that the adults overwinter and are active during bouts of warm weather.

HABITAT: This species appears to specialize on the American Sycamore, which is common along streambanks and in alluvial forests throughout the state.

FOOD: The only known host is American Sycamore (*Plantanus occidentalis*).

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights. Additional information is needed on the larval ecology and phenology of North Carolina populations, so we encourage naturalists to find larvae and rear adults.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S1S3

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: Despite the widespread occurrence of American Sycamore in North Carolina, we have only five county records for this species as of 2023. Additional information is needed on its distribution and abundance before we can assess its conservation status.