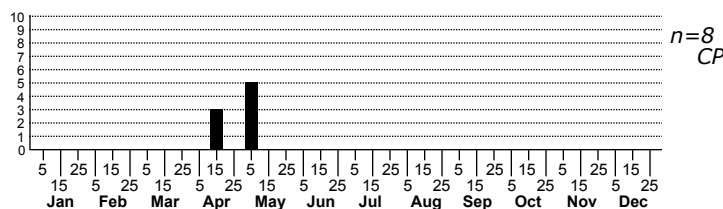
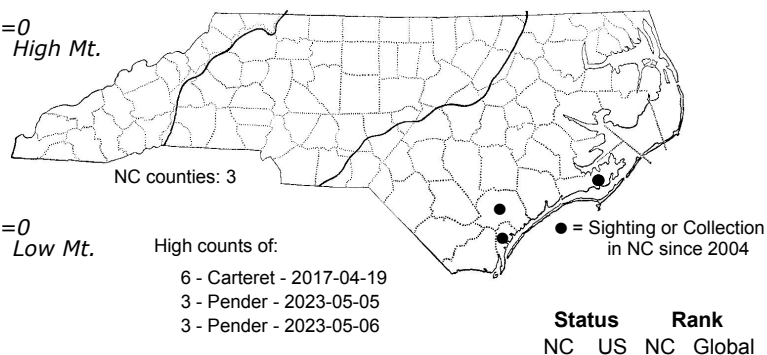


*Gnorimoschema terracottella* No common name



FAMILY: Gelechiidae SUBFAMILY: Gelechiinae TRIBE: Gnorimoschemini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: The genus *Gnorimoschema* contains over 115 species of small moths. There are more than 80 species in North America, and most are found in the southwestern US. They appear to specialize on members of the Asteraceae and have a diverse array of feeding niches that includes leafminers and gall-makers.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: (Busck, 1900)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: (Busck, 1900)

ID COMMENTS: This is a distinctly marked small moth, with a white head and thorax that contrast with the reddish brown base of the boldly marked forewing. The following description is based on that of Busck (1900). The antenna is about three-fourths the wing length, finely serrated, and has black and white annulations. The labial palp is white, and the second joint has a divided brush beneath. The third joint is shorter than the second, and has one black annulation just before the apex. The face, head, and thorax are white, and the shoulders reddish brown. The forewing is mostly reddish brown. The costa is white with two lobes of white that reach to near the middle of the wing. The first is narrow and pointed obliquely outward, while the other is large and triangular. At about four-fifths, there is a white costal spot and an opposing white dorsal spot that is smaller. On the fold just beyond the middle there is a small white dot in the reddish brown ground color. The interval between the white lobes and spots, as well as the apical part of wing, is freely dusted with black and purple scales. The cilia are yellow and dusted with black. The hindwing is purplish gray, and the cilia has a yellowish tinge. The abdomen is white with rust-red shadings, and the legs are boldly marked with black and white bands and annuli.

DISTRIBUTION: *Gnorimoschema terracottella* was previously only known from Florida, until it was discovered recently at two sites in coastal North Carolina.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults in Florida mostly fly from February through May. Our four adult records as of 2023 (all from Fort Macon State Park) range from 17 April to 9 May.

HABITAT: Our five records as of 2023 are all from coastal dunes and sandy spoil areas where Dune Marsh-elder grows, a species that grows in deep sand.

FOOD: Dune Marsh-elder (*Iva imbricata*) is the only known host (Busck 1900; Heppner, 2003). We have one record of larvae mining *Iva imbricata*.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults appear to only occasionally visit lights. There are surprisingly few recent records of this species in the US. We recommend either running lights or searching for the mines on the leaves of *Iva imbricata* and rearing the adults.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S2S3]

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: We have only two site records as of 2023 that appear to be elements of a northern disjunct population in North Carolina. The only other known populations are from Florida.