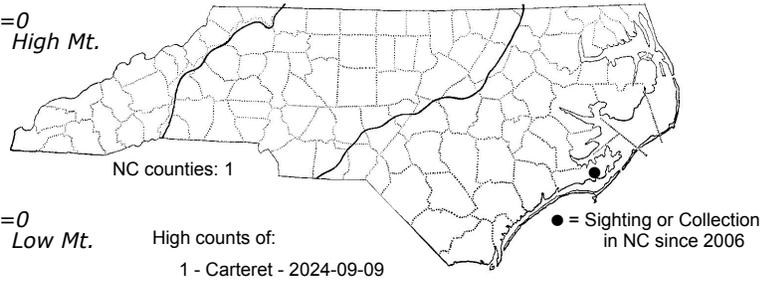
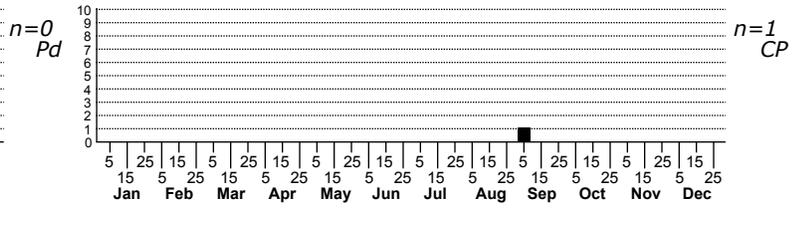


Chionodes dentella None



Status	Rank
NC	US
NC	Global



FAMILY: Gelechiidae SUBFAMILY: Gelechiinae TRIBE: Gelechiini
 TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Hodges (1999)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: *Chionodes dentella* is a distinctively marked species with contrasting cream-colored markings on a dark background. The following description is based on that of Hodges (1999). The labial palp is off-white, with dark-brown scales present on the lateral surface of the first segment, at the base of the second segment, and as a subapical ring on the third segment. The top of the head and thorax are off-white, while the antenna is black above. The forewing is mainly dark-brown to black, with an off-white or cream-colored longitudinal band that extends along the inner margin from the wing base to two-thirds the wing length. The band has an inward bulge at around one-fourth the wing length and ends with a transverse extension. The extension in some specimens may terminate near the center of the wing, but in others can reach all the way to the costa. It is followed by an off-white costal spot and an opposing tornal spot at around three-fourths the wing length. The hindwing is brown, and the outer portions of the legs predominantly black with off-white banding.

DISTRIBUTION: *Chionodes dentella* is restricted to southern latitudes and warmer climates in the US where it is found in a broad band from Florida to central California. The range extends from Florida westward across southern Alabama, southern Mississippi, and southern Louisiana. From there, it continues westward through most of Texas, New Mexico and Arizona to western Nevada and southern and central California. As of 2025, we have a single record from Fort Macon State Park on the coast.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults mostly fly during the warmer months of the year, but nearly year-round in southern areas such as Florida and Texas. As of 2025, our one record is from 9 September.

HABITAT: Although poorly documented, this species undoubtedly uses a wide variety of habitats given its wide distribution from Florida to California.

FOOD: The host plants are apparently undocumented.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR SU

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: As of 2025, we have a single record for this species that may reflect a stray. It is uncertain whether a breeding population exists in North Carolina.