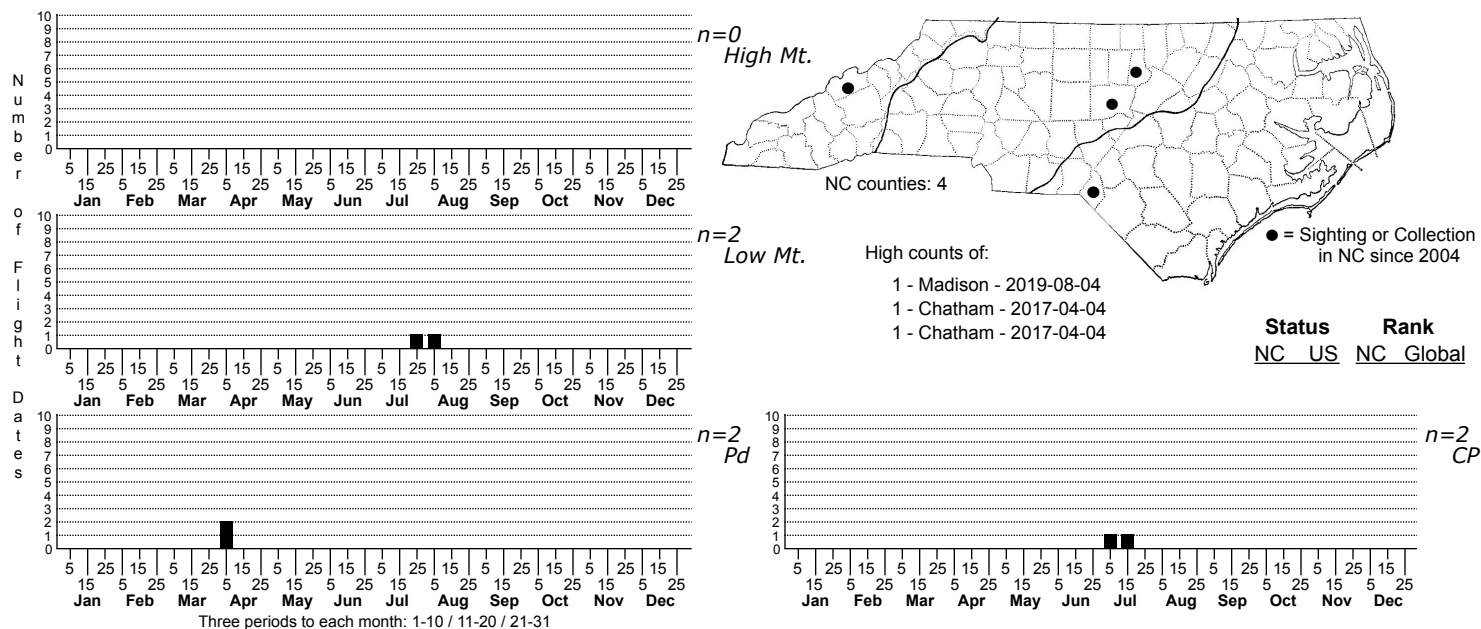


Filatima serotinella No common name



FAMILY: Gelechiidae SUBFAMILY: Gelechiinae TRIBE: Gelechiini

TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: The genus *Filatima* contains around 80 species that are primarily Holarctic in distribution, with the greatest diversity in semiarid areas of the western United States and Mexico. Their larvae are leaf tiers that feed primarily on legumes, but also exploit a variety of other vascular plants.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Busck (1903a)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Busck (1903a)

ID COMMENTS: *Filatima serotinella* is easily recognized by the prominent labial brush, its overall blackish coloration, and the presence of a prominent chocolate-brown streak along the costa that terminates at a white costal spot. The following detailed description is based on that of Busck (1903a). The dorsum of the head and thorax have a mixture of white and purplish black scales, with the latter predominating. The antenna is purplish black, with very narrow and indistinct whitish annulations. The second joint of the labial palp is whitish above and strongly sprinkled with black scales, while the underside of the well-developed brush is black. The terminal joint is black with white at the extreme tip. The ground color of the forewing is black with white scales irregularly interspersed. A light chocolate-brown streak extends along the costa from the wing base to about three-fourths where it meets a costal white spot. An opposing whitish spot that is often ill-defined is present on the inner margin, and the two are sometimes connected to produce a faint fascia. The cilia are dark fuscous, with whitish scales intermixed, and fresh specimens often have one or two faint blackish lines that parallel the edge of the wing. The hindwing is dark shining fuscous, and the cilia light fuscous. The abdomen is yellowish brown on the first segments, and dark fuscous on the remaining segments. The legs are mostly dark fuscous to blackish with paler bands and annulations. The species is similar to *F. pseudoacaciella*, but is larger and lacks prominent whitish spotting along the costal region.

DISTRIBUTION: *Filatima serotinella* is found in extreme southern Canada (Ontario and Quebec), and in the eastern US from Maine southward to Florida, and westward to eastern Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Illinois. As of 2021, we have records from the Piedmont and a lower elevation site in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been found from March through October in areas outside of North Carolina. Local populations are bivoltine, with the first brood following the spring leaf-out. A second brood is produced in July and August. As of 2021, we have adult records from April and August.

HABITAT: This species is dependent on Black Cherry as a food source. Black Cherry is common in hardwood and mixed-hardwood forests in the mountains and elsewhere. The seeds are dispersed by birds, and plants often become established in disturbed habitats such as fencerows, abandoned fields, forest edges and urban landscapes.

FOOD: Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*) is the only documented host.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults occasionally come to lights. The leaf folds are rather conspicuous on Black Cherry leaves, and the striped larvae are rather distinctive.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S2S3

STATE PROTECTION: Has no legal protection, although permits are required to collect it on state parks and other public lands.

COMMENTS: We currently do not have sufficient information on the distribution and abundance of this species within the state to assess its conservation status.