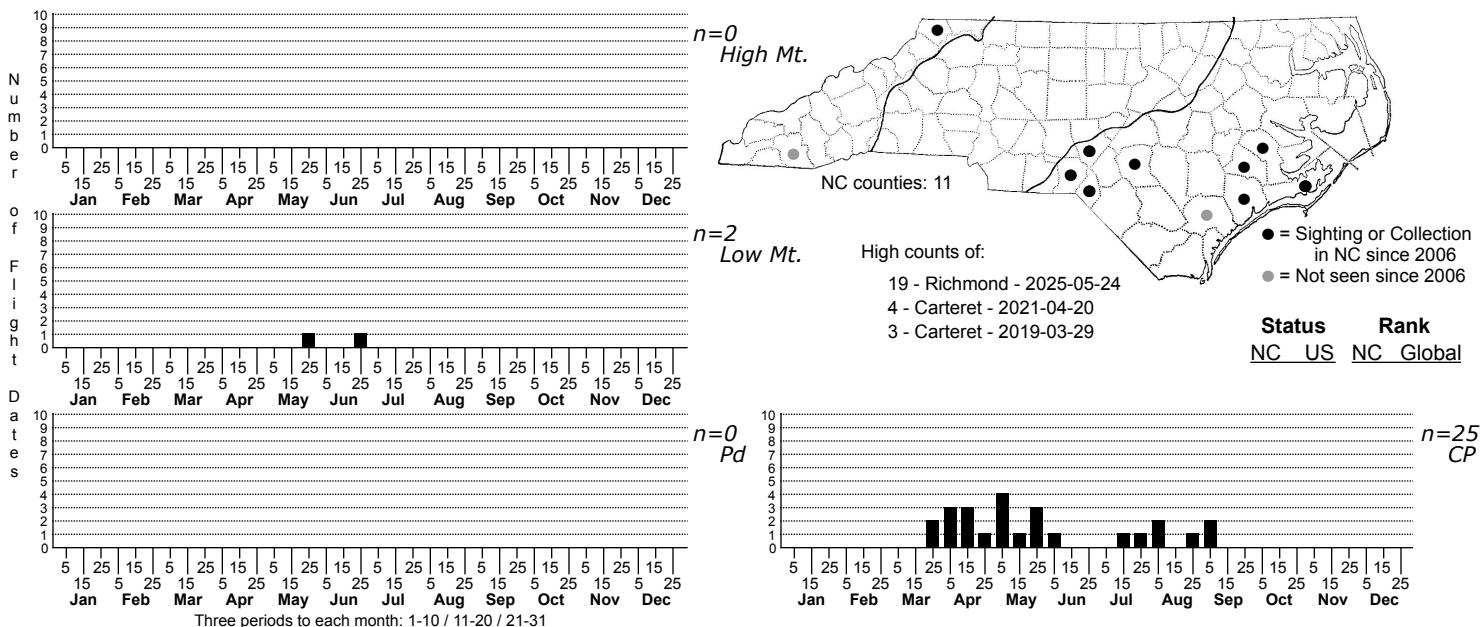


Aroga argutiola None



FAMILY: Gelechiidae SUBFAMILY: Gelechiinae TRIBE: Gelechiini
TAXONOMIC COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Hedges (1974a)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Wilson (1974)

ID COMMENTS: The following description is based on that of Hedges (1974a). The maxillary palp is gray. The outer surface of the first segment and base of the second segment of the labial palp are gray, while the inner surface of the first and second segments are mainly white. The scale brush on the second segment is pale orange to red-orange, while the third segment is mainly dark gray with yellowish-white scales at the base, anterior margin, apex, and sometimes elsewhere. The frons is white with a row of gray-brown scales in front of the eye, and the vertex and occiput are gray. The antenna is dark gray. The dorsal surfaces of the thorax, tegula, and forewing are dark gray. There is a patch of white scales on the costa at three-fourths the wing length, and often one on the posterior margin at three-fourths the wing length. A few white scales are often present on the fold, just before and just beyond one-half the length of the fold. A few white scales are also present at two-thirds to three-fourths the length of the cell, and at the end of the cell. The fringe is mainly pale gray. The hindwing is mainly pale yellowish gray above, with yellow more intense on the outer third of the wing. The legs are mainly dark gray, with off-white to whitish markings. Hedges (1974a) noted that *A. trialbamaculella*, *A. Aroga argutiola* and *A. epigaeella* cannot be distinguished based on external appearance, but can be identified using genitalia.

DISTRIBUTION: *Aroga argutiola* occurs in eastern North America from southern Canada (Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario) and Michigan southward to Louisiana. Hedges (1974a) reported specimens from Michigan, Connecticut, New Jersey, Virginia, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Louisiana.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Local populations in the Coastal Plain appear to be bivoltine, with adults first emerging in late March, then again in July through early September.

HABITAT: The majority of our records come from open heathland habitats in the Coastal Plain, including maritime dunes, flatwoods, and sand-ridges. One historic record comes from the vicinity of Highlands, where upland heath thickets are likely to be the habitat used by this species.

FOOD: According to Hedges (1974a), the larvae feed on Sweet-fern (*Comptonia peregrina*), as well as several genera of ericaceous plants. These include Leatherleaf (*Chamaedaphne calyculata*), *Gaultheria*, huckleberries (*Gaylussacia*), blueberries (*Vaccinium*) and Small Cranberry (*V. oxyccoccus*). We have one rearing record for a larva collected from a blueberry (Hedges, 1974a).

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults come to lights and have been successfully reared from larvae taken from leaf-folds in the host plants.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S2S3]

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS:
March 2026

The Moths of North Carolina - Early Draft