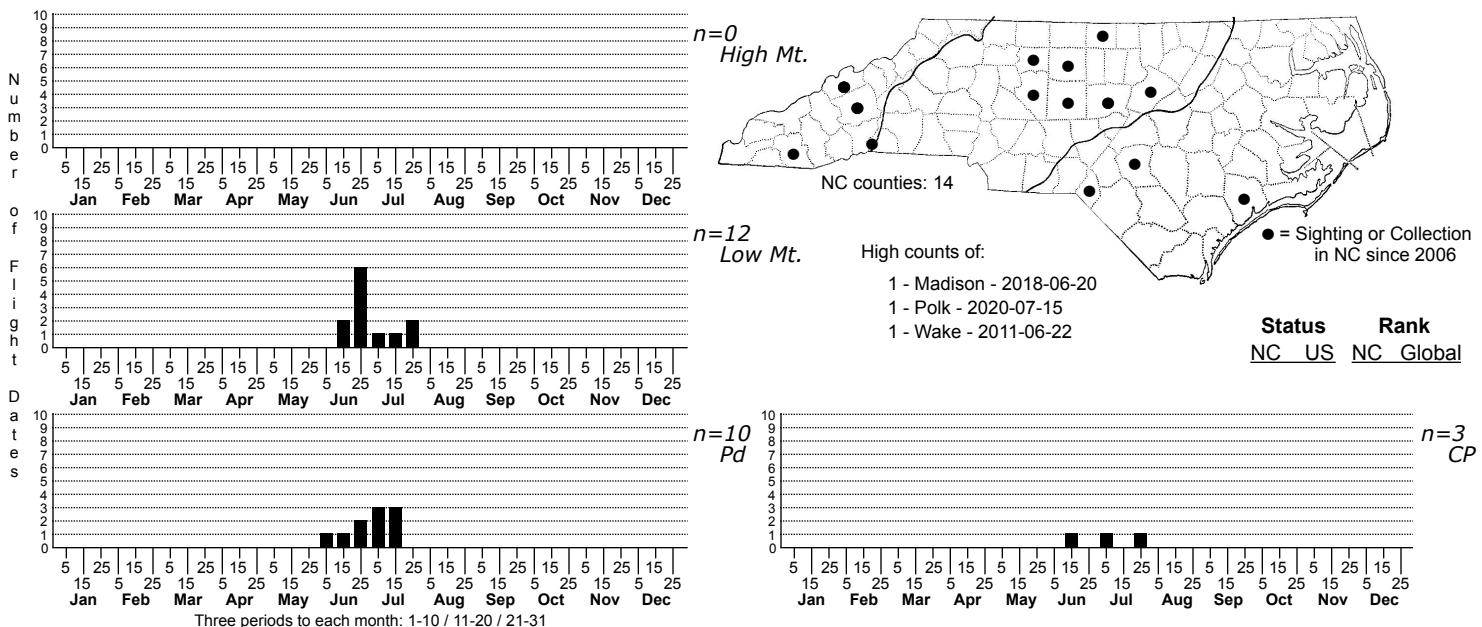


Strobisia iridipennella Iridescent Strobisia



FAMILY: Gelechiidae SUBFAMILY: Anacampsinae TRIBE: TAXONOMIC COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1923).

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: *Strobisia iridipennella* is a small moth with a shiny, deep-brown forewing that is marked with bright iridescent blue lines and spots. Specimens typically have four lines that begin on or near the costa. The first three are posteriorly oblique lines that begin at around one-fifth, two-fifths, and three-fifths the wing length from the base, and are roughly parallel to one another. These end before the center of the wing and each is followed by an isolated iridescent blue spot below the inner margin, with a large gap separating the two. The third line also has a small spot immediately inward and basal to its tip. The fourth costal mark is a very short line at around four-fifths that runs perpendicular to the costa. The outer margin has a line of three or four iridescent blue or purplish spots, while the fringe is silvery-gray with a broad, brownish, basal band. The antenna has alternating off-white and dark-brown annulations, and the labial palp is long, recurved and finely-tapered.

Strobisia iridipennella closely resembles *S. proserpinella*, but the first costal line is much larger on the latter, the spots below the inner margin are missing, and a short blue line is present that projects inward from the inner margin between the second and third costal lines.

DISTRIBUTION: *Strobisia iridipennella* is found throughout much of the eastern US, with the range extending from southern New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania southwestward through the Carolinas to Georgia, northern Florida and Alabama, and westward to eastern Texas, eastern Oklahoma, western Kentucky and Illinois. There is one confirmed record from Ontario (Pohl et al., 2018). As of 2025, we have scattered records from all three physiographic provinces.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been observed from April through September in different areas of the range, with a seasonal peak typically in June and July. Local populations in North Carolina are univoltine and have a brief flight period that lasts only a few weeks. As of 2025, our records range from early-June to late-July.

HABITAT: Most of our records are from sites with mesic deciduous forests, including rich slopes in the Blue Ridge and a riparian forest in the Sandhills.

FOOD: As of 2025, the host plants appear to be unknown.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights and are commonly found perched on vegetation during the day where they often engage in rapid, circular, dancing movements.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S3]

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: *Strobisia iridipennella* appears to be uncommon in North Carolina, with scattered, local populations occurring mostly in the Piedmont and Blue Ridge.