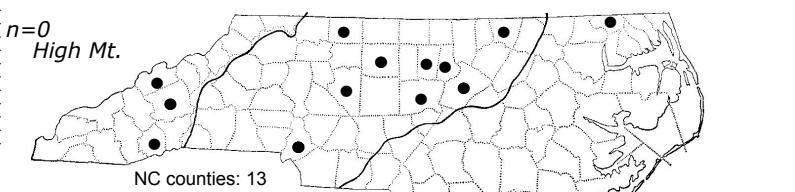
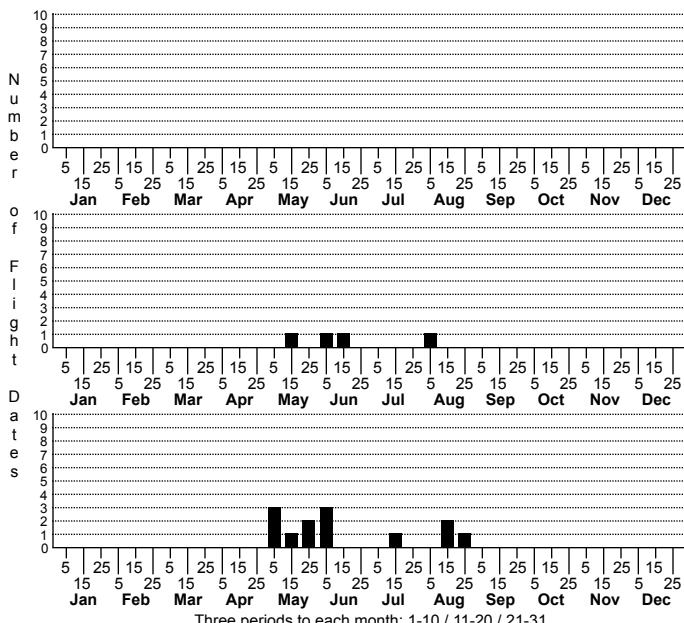


Holophysis emblemella None



High counts of:
 1 - Warren - 2015-06-02
 1 - Mecklenburg - 2019-05-09
 1 - Gates - 2014-05-19

Status	Rank		
NC	US	NC	Global

n=1 CP

FAMILY: Gelechiidae **SUBFAMILY:** Anacampsinae **TRIBE:**
TAXONOMIC COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1923)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: *Holophysis emblemella* is a boldly marked species with red eyes and a forewing that has a mixture of brownish-black, steel-blue, tan and coppery markings. The following description is based in part on that of Forbes (1923). The labial palp is long, recurved and finely-tapered, with the second segment having a moderately-developed, creamy-white tuft. The terminal segment is creamy-white with dark-brown dusting, and the antenna is dusky-colored. When a resting individual is viewed from above, the head, thorax and basal portions of the forewings have a series of alternating light coppery-tan and brown bands from front to back. These begin with a light head and end with a broad, light band at around one-fifth the wing length. The remainder of the forewing is predominantly dark-brown, with a series of steel-blue to silvery-blue streaks and spots, and a pale, triangular-shaped mark along the inner margin at around three-fifths that often has a darker center. The steel-blue marks include, 1) an outwardly oblique costal streak at around one-third the wing length from the base, 2) a very irregular and narrower medial band that approaches, and sometimes fuses with, the triangular mark along the inner margin, 3) a costal spot at around four-fifths the wing length, and 4) a few irregular subterminal spots near the middle of the wing. In addition, most specimens have varying amounts of rich coppery-colored scales that are concentrated along the inner margin in or around the triangular mark, and posterior to the medial steel-blue band. The fringe is off-white with a wide brown band at the base and a narrower brown terminal edge.

DISTRIBUTION: *Holophysis emblemella* is found throughout much of the eastern US and in southern Ontario. In the eastern US, the range extends from Vermont, Massachusetts and southern New York southward through the Appalachian region and Piedmont to central Georgia, central Alabama, and northern Florida. The range extends westward to Mississippi, Arkansas, Missouri, Kentucky, Illinois, Wisconsin and northeastern Iowa. This species is uncommon west of the Mississippi River and absent or nearly so from much of the southeastern Coastal Plain. As of 2025, all but one of our records are from the Piedmont and lower elevation sites in the Blue Ridge.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been observed from March through September in different areas of the range, with a seasonal peak commonly in May and June. As of 2025, our records range from early-May to late-August, with populations in the Piedmont probably producing two broods per year.

HABITAT:

FOOD: As of 2025, the hosts are undocumented. Forbes (1923) noted that the larvae possibly feed on buckeyes, but did not apparently have any rearing records for this.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights and can be found resting on vegetation during the day.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S3S4]

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

COMMENTS: