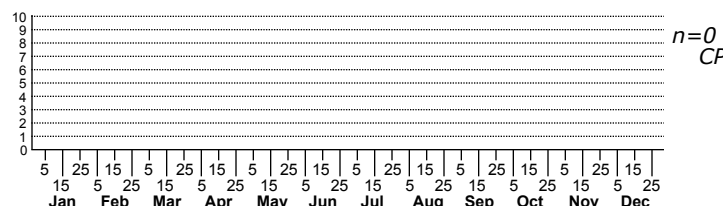
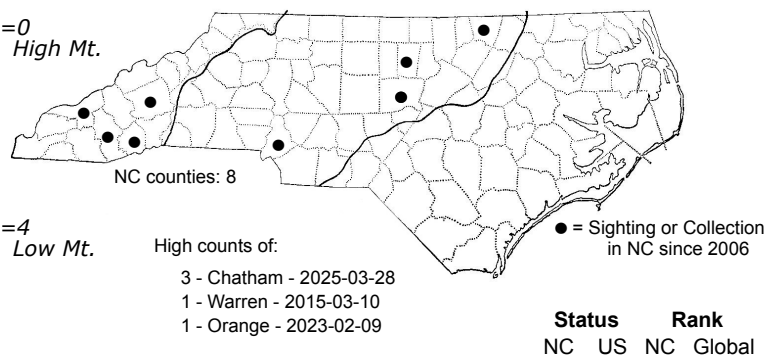
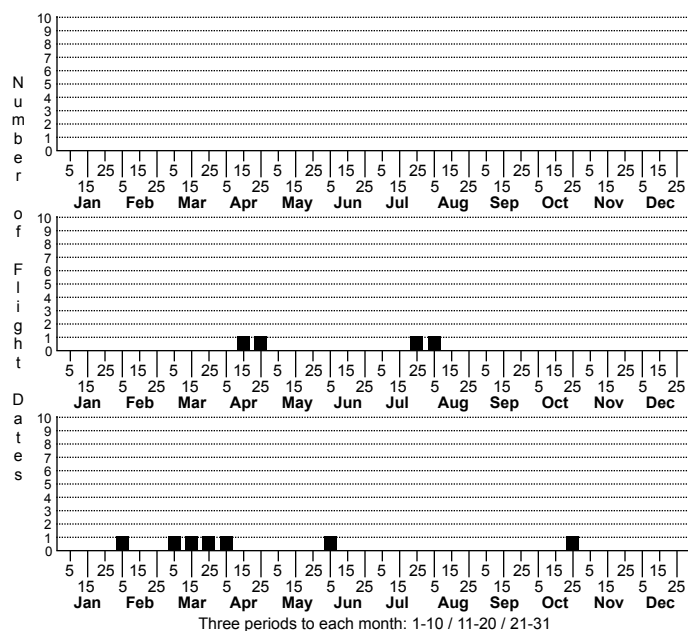


Dichomeris georgiella Georgia Dichomeris



FAMILY: Gelechiidae SUBFAMILY: Dichomeridinae TRIBE:

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: *Dichomeris* is a large genus with several hundred species that occur throughout the world. Hodges (1986) recognized 74 species in North America north of Mexico, with 19 species groups. Most are leaf-tiers and they use a taxonomically diverse array of plant hosts, including members of 18 families of plants in North America. As of 2025, North Carolina has 35 documented species, and at least one undescribed species from the Sandhills.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Hodges (1986)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: *Dichomeris georgiella* has a highly flattened body and prominent labial palps. The forewing varies from grayish-orange to more grayish-brown, and is finely mottled with dark-brown and paler scales. There are three small spots with a scattering of white scales around the margins. These include a diagonal pair just before the middle of the wing -- with the spot closer to the inner margin larger and displaced more basally -- and a single larger spot at around two-thirds the wing length. On many specimens these may be obscure or entirely missing, but relatively pale specimens often have them well-developed (Hodges, 1986). In most eastern specimens the forewing has a row of pale-yellow scales on the fold.

The frons and head are pale grayish orange, and the outer surface of the first and second segments of the labial palps are dark grayish-brown. The tuft on the second segment varies from pale-yellow to reddish-orange or orangish-gray. The scape of the antenna is grayish-brown and the shaft has pale yellowish-gray rows that alternate with darker orangish-gray to brown rows. The thorax has three small dark-brown to blackish spots on the posterior margin (often obscure), with one at the apex and the other two displaced to the sides. The hindwing is pale gray, while the legs are mainly dark-brown.

Dichomeris ventrellus is often confused with *D. georgiella*. Hodges (1986) noted that the dark spots of *D. ventrellus* are usually well-defined, while those of *D. georgiella* usually are not, but can be on pale specimens. In addition, *D. georgiella* usually has a line of pale yellowish-gray scales on the fold of the forewing (see illustration above), and has the dorsal surface of the prothoracic tarsus blotched and with pale yellowish gray on the first two or three segments. In contrast, *D. ventrellus* lacks pale scales on the fold and has the first three segments of the tarsus dark brown. If needed, these two species can be easily distinguished using the male genitalia. *Dichomeris ventrellus* might also be confused with *D. vacciniella*, but in the latter the head and labial palps are darker than the thorax. *Dichomeris vacciniella* also usually has a forewing that is heavily dusted with dark scales in the subterminal region.

DISTRIBUTION: *Dichomeris georgiella* is widely distributed in most of the eastern US and in adjoining areas of southern Ontario and Quebec. The range in the US extends from Maine and other New England states southwestward to central Florida and westward to central and southern Texas, central Oklahoma, western Kentucky and Illinois. There is also an isolated cluster in southeastern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico that appear to be this species (Hodges, 1986). As of 2025, our records are restricted to the southwestern Blue Ridge and the eastern Piedmont.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adult have been documented from March through October in different areas of the range. The adults overwinter and are occasionally seen at bait and lights during the fall, winter, and spring on warm nights (Hodges, 1986). As of 2025, our records extend from early February through late-October, with most from the late-winter and early-spring months.

HABITAT: The adults prefer forested sites where members of the red oak group such as Scarlet Oak are well-represented.

FOOD: Larvae reportedly feed on oaks, including Scarlet Oak (*Quercus coccinea*), White Oak (*Q. alba*), Northern Red Oak (*Q. rubra*); Forbes, 1923; Godfrey et al., 1987; Wagner et al., 1995a; Seifert et al., 2021).

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to bait and lights and the larvae can be found in leaf rolls or leaf folds on oaks.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S3S4]

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: