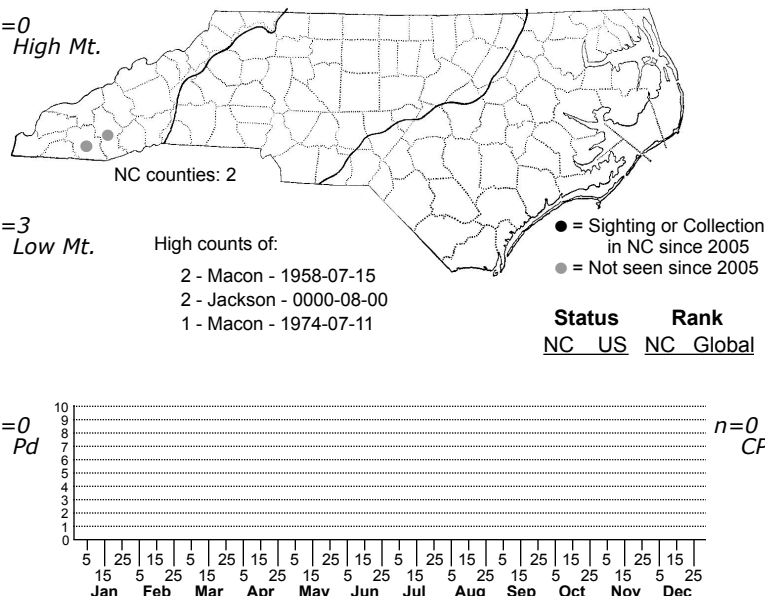
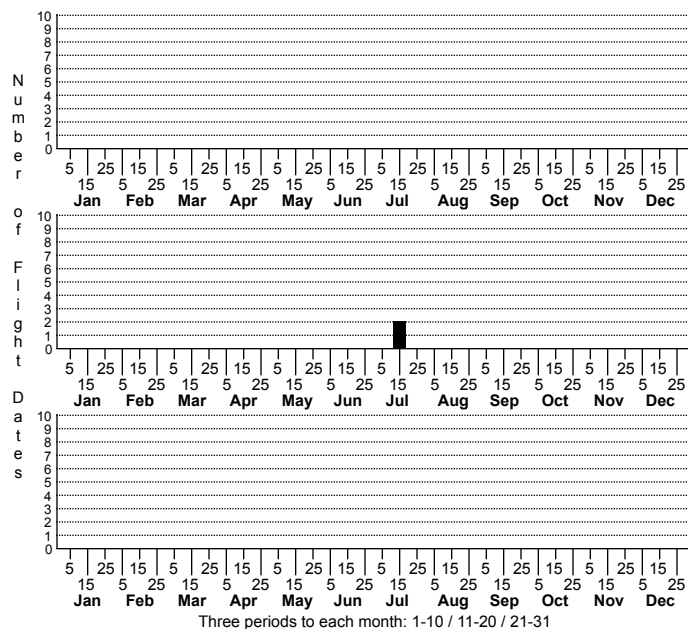


Dichomeris caia None



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 caia* is a rather nondescript species that has a medium-brown to dark-brown forewing that lacks any conspicuous markings. The fringe is a slightly lighter shade, and the hindwing is medium to light-brown with a well-developed lighter fringe. The labial palp is dark brown and has a well-developed scale tuft. The vertex and occiput are yellowish-gray, and the antenna has alternating yellowish-gray and grayish-brown rings (Hodges, 1986). This species is best confirmed using genitalia.

DISTRIBUTION: This is a primarily northern species whose range extends south to the Southern Appalachians. Hodges (1986) reported specimens that he identified from genitalia from Nova Scotia, Ontario, Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia and North Carolina. As of 2025, all of our records are from the southern Blue Ridge in Macon and Jackson counties.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Specimens examined by Hodges (1986) were collected from May through September. As of 2025, all of our records are from mid-July.

HABITAT:

FOOD: As of 2025, the host plants used by the larvae have not been reported (Hodges, 1986).

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S1S2

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: