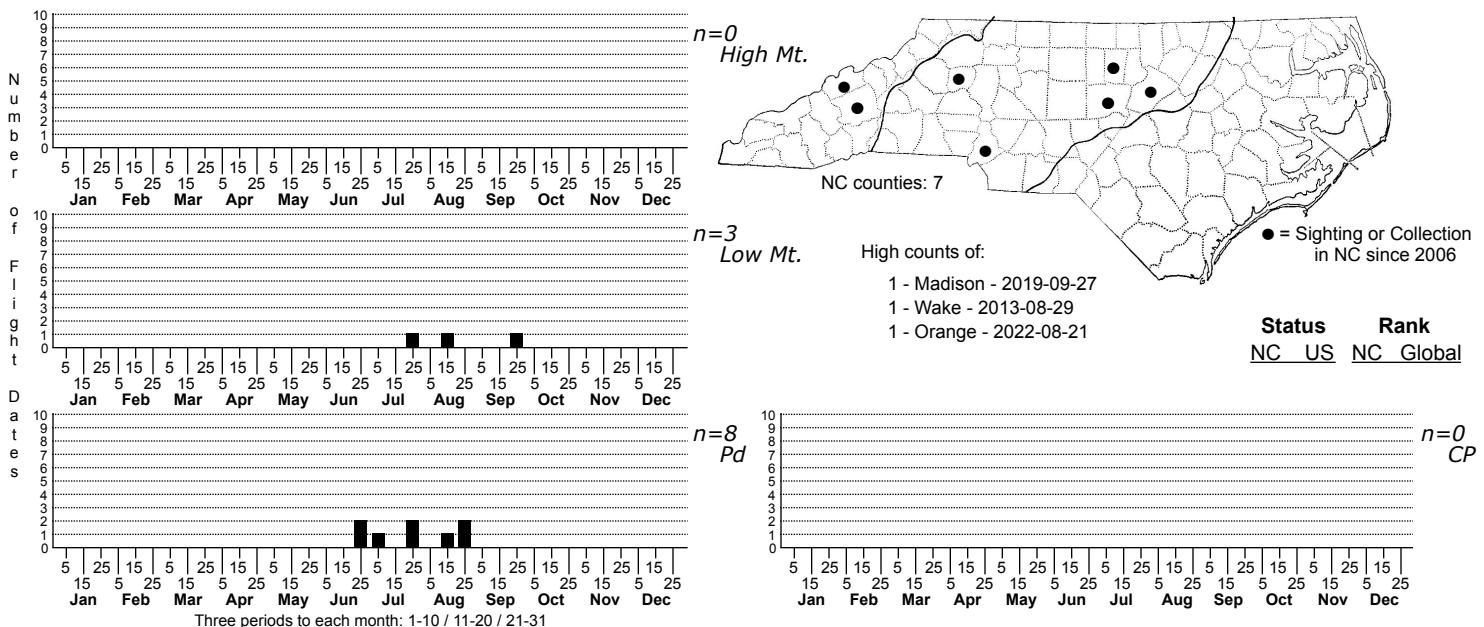


Dichomeris siren Least Dichomeris



FAMILY: Gelechiidae **SUBFAMILY:** Dichomeridinae **TRIBE:**

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: *Dichomeris* is a large genus with several hundred species that occur throughout the world. Hedges (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: Hedges (1986)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: *Dichomeris siren* is the smallest of our *Dichomeris* species and can be identified by its size (front wing length typically < 3.6 mm) and a shiny forewing that is boldly marked with orangish-yellow and dark brown patterning. The dark marks includes a broad, subterminal band, a large costal spot at two-thirds the wing length, and a semicircular arc on the basal half of the wing, with both ends terminating at the inner margin. The thorax is dark brown and the head is concolorous with the yellow color of the forewing. The terminal fringe is orangish-yellow and the hindwing is brown with a well-developed fringe. The labial palp is mostly pale yellow and the dorsal surface of the second segment lacks a scale tuft.

DISTRIBUTION: *Dichomeris siren* is found in the eastern US from New Hampshire and Massachusetts southward to Georgia, and westward to Louisiana, Arkansas, western Tennessee, and northern Indiana. This species is generally absent from the southeastern Coastal Plain, and spottily distributed west of the Appalachian Mountains. As of 2025, our records are all from the Piedmont and lower-elevation sites in the Blue Ridge.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been found from May through October in different areas of the range, with a seasonal peak typically in July and August. As of 2025, our records are from late-June through late-September, with all but one from late-June through late-August.

HABITAT: Our records are mostly from fragmented, forested habitats such as semi-wooded residential neighborhoods and greenways, with hardwood trees as part of the landscape.

FOOD: As of 2025, the host plants of this species are undocumented.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S2S4]

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: