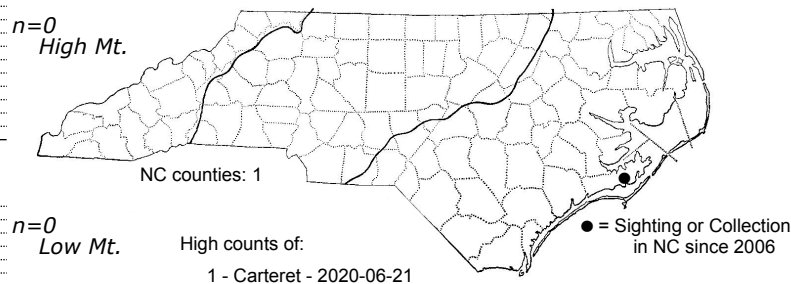
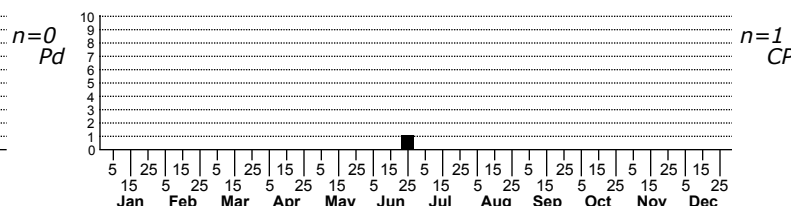


Dichomeris nenia None



Status	Rank
NC	US
NC	Global



FAMILY: Gelechiidae SUBFAMILY: Dichomerinae 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:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: *Dichomeris nenia* has a uniformly orange to light brownish-orange forewing, with the exception of dark scales along the outer margin and two diffuse spots in the subapical region of the costa. There is also a series of three small, dark spots in the sub-basal (often obscure), medial, and post-medial region of the middle of the wing. Many specimens also have additional dark dusting along the inner margin, typically from the wing base to around two-thirds the wing length. The hindwing is brown with a prominent fringe, and the labial palp has a well-developed scale tuft and appears grizzled due to the white scale tips. The overall color of the palp, in addition to the vertex and head, is gray to grayish-brown. The thorax tends to be concolorous with the forewing ground except in the middle where it is grayish-brown, while the antenna is grayish-brown. The legs are light grayish-brown with a few white metatarsal rings, with the hindlegs being noticeably paler than the other two.

DISTRIBUTION: *Dichomeris nenia* has southern affinities, with most records from Florida and adjoining areas of Alabama near the Florida Panhandle. Scattered records are also known from central Texas, Arkansas, central Alabama, coastal North Carolina, and Maryland. As of 2025, we have a single record from Carteret County.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been found during almost every month of the year in Florida and nearby areas. Our one record as of 2025 was from late-June.

HABITAT: Our sole record comes from a barrier island where it was collected in a spoil area.

FOOD: R. O. Kendall reared two specimens from Lindheimer's Indigo (*Indigofera lindheimeriana*) in Texas (Hodges, 1986), which is the only confirmed host that we are aware of as of 2025. In North Carolina, the larvae may feed on the native Carolina Indigo (*I. caroliniana*). *Dichomeris acuminata* is a closely-related species that feeds on several genera of legumes in Florida, which suggests that *D. nenia* might do the same.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: [GMR] SU

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: