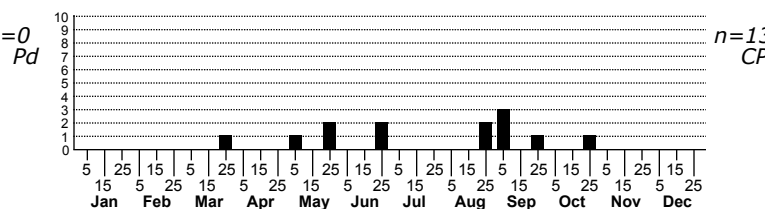
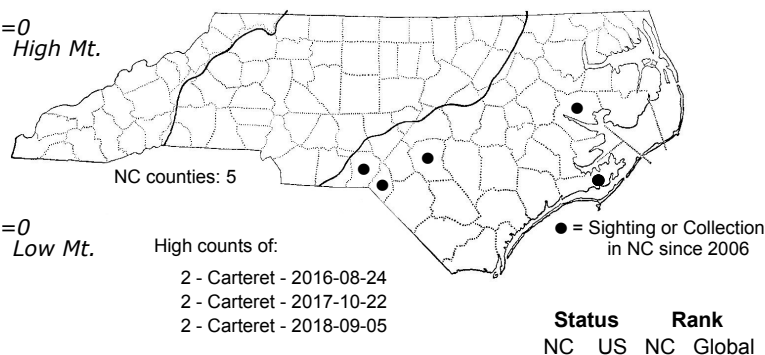


Dichomeris bolize Glaser's Dichomeris



FAMILY: Gelechiidae SUBFAMILY: Dichomeriinae 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 bolize* has a two-toned appearance with the forewing having a pale-yellow to cream-colored costal band that extends from the wing base to near the apex, and an adjoining broad, toothed, dark-brown band that extends from the base to the outer margin. The pale band gently narrows towards the apex and terminates just before reaching it. The dark band commonly has two small teeth that project into the pale band; one at around two-fifths the wing length, and the second at around two-thirds the wing length. The head is pale-yellow to cream-colored above, while thorax is dark-brown in the middle and pale-yellow to cream-colored on the sides.

The first segment of the labial palp is dark gray, while the outer surface of the second segment is dark gray with reddish-brown scales ventrally. The scale tuft on the second segment that is reddish-brown basally and pale yellow towards the apex. The third segment is pale yellow, while the antenna is grayish-brown except for being pale yellow on the base and the first two or three segments of the shaft (Hodges, 1986).

Dichomeris bolize can be confused with two other *Dichomeris* that are found in coastal areas (the dark morph of *D. ligulella* and *D. pelta*). *Dichomeris bolize* and *D. pelta* have a yellowish to cream-colored, longitudinal band along the costa that lacks the scattered dark flecking that is typically present in *D. ligulella*. In *D. bolize*, the light costal band terminates just before reaching the apex, while in *D. pelta* the band terminates at the apex, as is the case with *D. ligulella*. *Dichomeris pelta* also has a small black spot in the yellow band near the base of the forewing that the other two species lack. Both of these species lack the prominent, forward-projecting, scale tufts on the labial palps that are typical of *D. ligulella*. Worn specimens of all three can be distinguished using genitalia.

DISTRIBUTION: *Dichomeris bolize* appears to be most common in sandy Coastal Plain habitats, with the range extending from Massachusetts, Connecticut and New York southward to central Florida and westward to Louisiana and southeastern Texas. Specimens have also been found at scattered sites in West Virginia, northern Ohio, northwestern Illinois, Nebraska and southern Ontario. As of 2025, all of our records are from the Coastal Plain, including the Sandhills and from sites near the coast.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been documented from March through October in different areas of the range. As of 2025, we have records from late-March to late-October, with little evidence of a strong seasonal peak in activity.

HABITAT: The preferred habitats are poorly documented. We have records from a xeric Sandhills community, a maritime forest and a few wetland sites.

FOOD: The hosts are poorly documented, but there is one record for a larva that was found on a species of *Brassica* in New York (Hodges, 1986). As of 2025, we do not have any host records for North Carolina.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR SNR [S2S3]

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

COMMENTS: