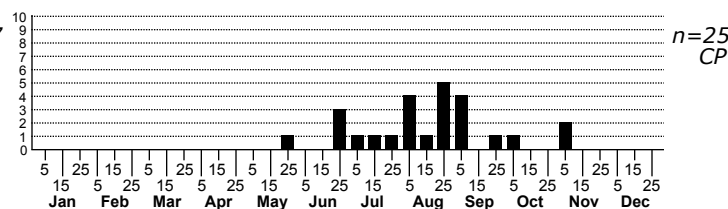
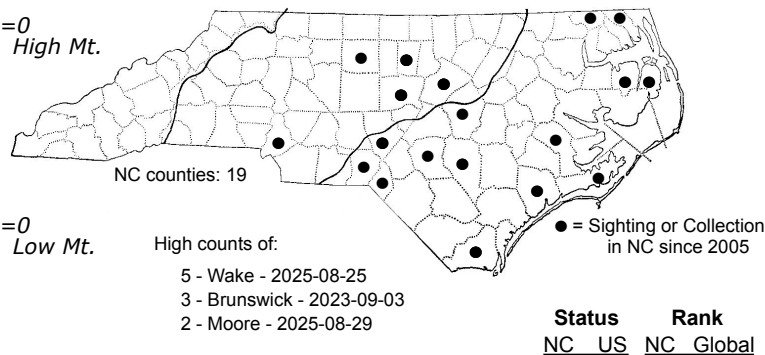
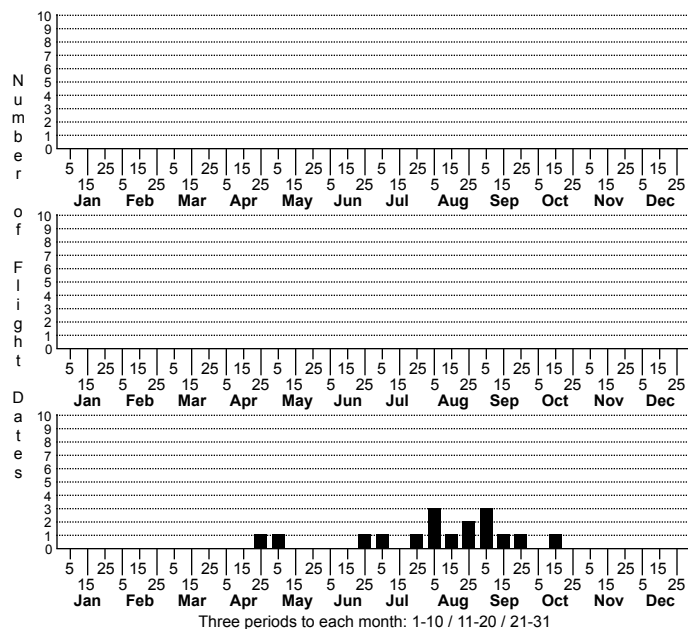


## *Dichomeris aglaia* None



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 aglaia* is one of the more distinctive species within the genus, with the most prominent feature being a more-or-less central, triangular, black mark on the basal third of the forewing that does not extend to either the costa or the inner margin. The ground color of the palps, antennae, head, thorax and forewings consists of varying shades of yellowish-brown. The second segment of the labial palp has a prominent ventral and dorsal scale tuft that projects forward, while the head has pale yellowish-gray scales in the middle that are replaced by brownish scales laterally. The thorax has an indistinct brown line in the middle, and often some dark scale patches where it touches the wing base.

The prominent black mark in the basal third of the forewing broadens distally, with the greatest width typically being at least twice that of the shortest width near the wing base. A small white spot is present at the distal tip of the black mark that is followed by a diffuse, black, longitudinal streak that has one or two white spots at its terminus. A white spot is also often present on the distal end that is closest to the inner margin. An oblique, diffuse streak extends from the subapical region inward to just beyond the middle of the wing, while the outer margin has a row of five or six black spots. The hindwings are uniformly warm brown.

DISTRIBUTION: *Dichomeris aglaia* is largely restricted to the Southeast in areas where the host plant is locally abundant. Specimens have been documented from southern Delaware and southeastern Maryland southward along the Atlantic Seaboard to southern Florida, and westward through the Gulf States to Louisiana and east-central Texas. As of 2025, our records are all from the Coastal Plain and eastern Piedmont.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults fly year-round in Florida and in all but the coldest months at other southern locales. As of 2025, our records extend from late-April through early-November. Populations in Florida are multivoltine, while those in North Carolina likely produce at least two broods per year in most populations.

HABITAT: Local populations are strongly dependent on Dog-fennel as a larval food source. This species is commonly found in xeric to mesic habitats that are disturbed or fire-maintained. Examples include Longleaf Pine savannas and flatwoods, xeric sandhill communities, old-fields and powerline corridors. As of 2025, we have records from Longleaf Pine habitats, Bluejack-Blackjack Oak forests, old fields, powerline corridors and residential neighborhoods.

FOOD: The larvae appear to specialize on Dogfennel (*Eupatorium capillifolium*) (Hodges, 1986).

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights and the larval leaf ties can be found on Dog-fennel.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S3S4

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

COMMENTS:

March 2025

The Moths of North Carolina - Early Draft