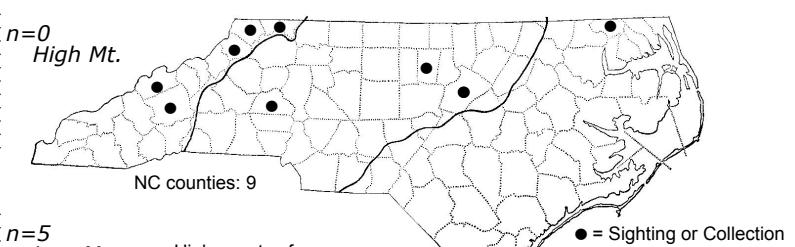
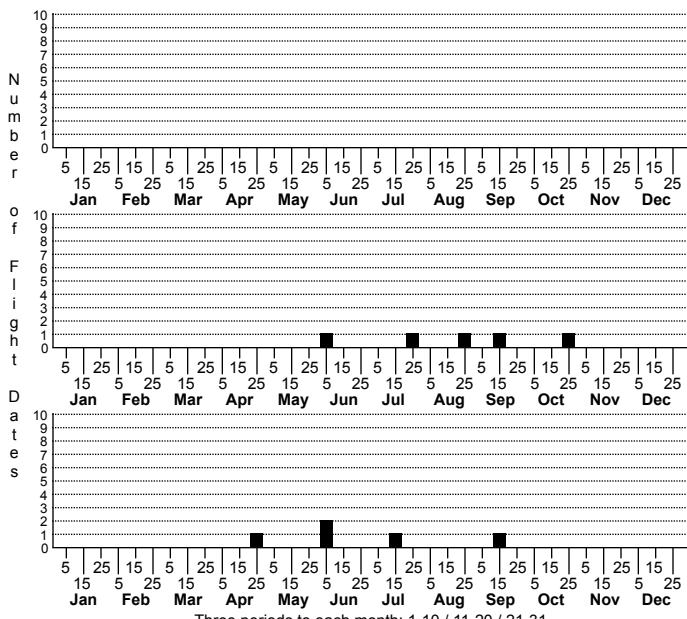


## *Dichomeris agonia* None



Status	Rank		
NC	US	NC	Global

*n=1*  
CP

FAMILY: Gelechiidae SUBFAMILY: Dichomeridinae TRIBE:

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: <i>Dichomeris</i> 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 leafiers 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: Loeffler (1994)

ID COMMENTS: <i>Dichomeris agonia</i> has an overall medium-brown color that is due to a mixture of dark-brown and slate-gray scales on the forewing and thorax. The antennae and terminal fringe are concolorous with the forewing ground color, and the frons and labial palps are orangish-white, with the latter having numerous grayish-brown scales on the second segment. The scales on the vertex are shining pale-yellowish gray above the eye, gray medially and with faint metallic-yellow reflections (Hodges, 1986). The forewing often has pale-orange spots that include one or a pair at one-half the wing length and a second, larger spot at around two-thirds the wing length. A faint, light mark is also usually evident on the costal margin at three-fourths the wing length, and there is a dark, transverse, subterminal band that is more-or-less straight, but often obscure.

<i>Dichomeris juncidella</i> is sometimes confused with <i>D. agonia</i>, but the latter tends to be lighter-colored and has yellowish orange labial palps with the first and second segments dusted with grayish-brown scales (Hodges, 1986). The vertex and occiput are yellowish gray, and the spot at the end of the cell is usually pale yellow or yellowish gray and much more prominent than that of <i>D. juncidella</i>. <i>Dichomeris juncidella</i> also has an outwardly curved, transverse, dark subterminal band on the forewing versus a relatively straight, transverse band on <i>D. agonia</i>.

DISTRIBUTION: <i>Dichomeris agonia</i> is found in the eastern US and southern Ontario, with the range in the US extending from Maine southward to southern Florida, and westward to eastern Texas, central Oklahoma, Missouri, eastern Kansas, Illinois and southern Wisconsin. As of 2025, we have a few scattered records from all three physiographic provinces in the state, with most from the central and northern Blue Ridge.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been documented from January-through November in different areas of the range, with those outside of Florida typically flying from May through September. As of 2025, our records are from early-June to late-September.

HABITAT: Local populations are found in or near open habitats where goldenrods, asters and other host plants grow. Our records include a lake shoreline, a mountain bog, and a residential neighborhood.

FOOD: Larvae have been reared on evening-primrose (<i>Oenothera</i>), asters and goldenrod (<i>Solidago</i>) (Hodges, 1986). Loeffler (1994) found larvae using Early Goldenrod (<i>S. juncea</i>) and Gray Goldenrod (<i>S. nemoralis</i>) in Pennsylvania. As of 2025, we do not have any feeding records for North Carolina.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights and the larvae can be found in leaf folds on goldenrods and other hosts.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S2S3]

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: