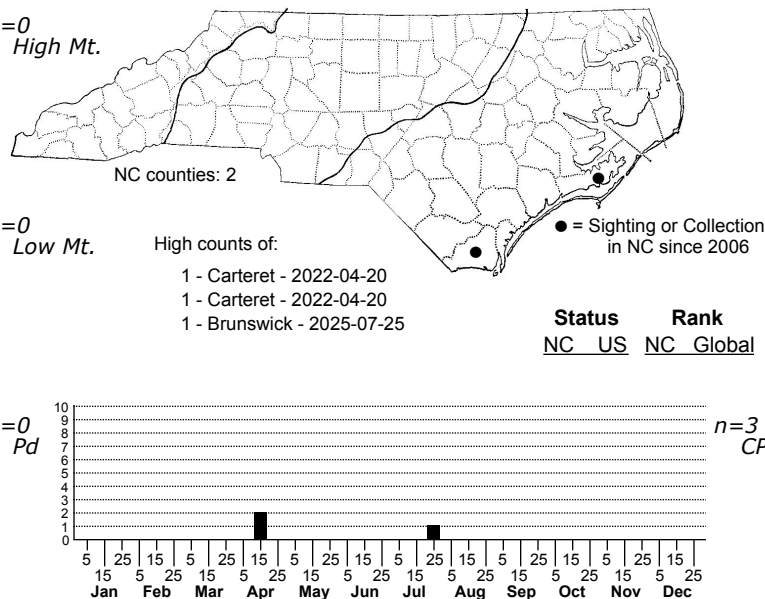


Dichomeris crepida None



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: Hodges (1986).

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: *Dichomeris crepida* is characterized by a dark-brown forewing that has a diffuse light streak that extends from the wing base to the middle of the wing or beyond, and in some cases nearly to the apex. Worn specimens commonly have pale veins with reddish-brown scales between the veins. The outer surface of the second segment of the labial palp is dark grayish-brown, while the apex is yellowish white. The dorsal surface has a white scale tuft, while the ventral surface lacks a tuft and has a series of tightly appressed scales. The third segment is uniformly pale yellow and darker than the white dorsal tuft below (Hodges, 1986). The frons is mainly brownish orange, and the vertex and occiput mostly grayish-brown. The antenna is dark brown and the thorax is dark-brown along the margins and streaked with grayish orange in the middle. The forelegs and midlegs are predominantly dark-brown, while the hindlegs are paler.

Dichomeris offula is most similar to *D. crepida*, but *D. crepida* has the light-colored scales on the forewing extending from the base of the wing in a streaked pattern. In contrast, the light-colored scales of *D. offula* are restricted to an area between one-half and three-fourths the wing length.

DISTRIBUTION: *Dichomeris crepida* is mostly found in coastal communities from Louisiana eastward to Florida, and northward to North Carolina. It is most common along the Gulf Coast, with only a few records from the Atlantic Coast. As of 2025, our records are also from coastal communities.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been documented from February through November in different areas of the range, with a seasonal peak in February through April, and a second in August through October, which suggests the possibility of two broods being produced each year. As of 2025, our records are from April and July.

HABITAT: Local populations are typically found in coastal communities, but details of the specific habitat requirements are poorly documented. Our three records as of 2025 are from a coastal dune and scrub community and a maritime forest.

FOOD: The hosts are apparently undocumented.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S1S2]

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: