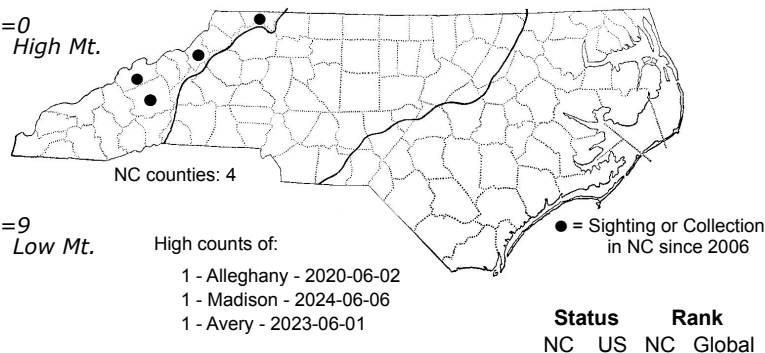
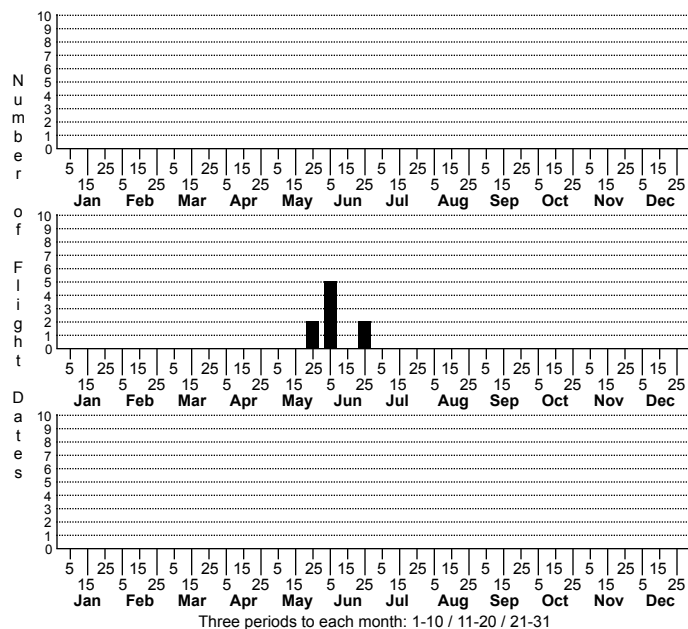


# *Dichomeris nonstrigella* Little Devil Moth



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: Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Hodges (1986)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Loeffler (1994)

ID COMMENTS: *Dichomeris nonstrigella* is distinctive in having a uniformly dark violet-brown forewing that is immaculate, a contrasting orange labial palp, and an antenna with the basal two-thirds heavily clothed with long scales that make it appear thick (Hodges, 1986). The legs and antenna are concolorous with the forewings. This species is very similar to *D. purpureofusca*, but the latter has an antenna that is uniformly narrow throughout its length.

DISTRIBUTION: *Dichomeris nonstrigella* is found in eastern North America where it has northern affinities. The range includes portions of southeastern Canada (Ontario; Quebec; New Brunswick; Nova Scotia) and the US from Maine westward to Wisconsin and eastern Minnesota and southward to eastern Missouri, Arkansas, central Mississippi, Kentucky, Virginia and western North Carolina. This species is apparently absent from the southeastern Coastal Plain and Piedmont. As of 2025, all of our records are from lower-elevation sites in the Blue Ridge, and only from the central and northern counties.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Local populations are univoltine, with the adults flying from May through July in different areas of the range. As of 2025, our records extend from late-May through late-June.

HABITAT: Loeffler (1994) collected larvae and reared adults that were found in large fields, along roadsides, and in forest openings. As of 2025, our habitat records include semi-wooded residential neighborhoods, a college campus, and forested habitats with secondary roads.

FOOD: The larvae feed on both goldenrods and asters. Braun reared adults from Short's Aster (*Symphytotrichum shortii*; Hodges, 1986), while Loeffler (1994) found larvae on Tall Goldenrod (*Solidago altissima*), Giant Goldenrod (*S. gigantea*) and Wrinkle-leaf Goldenrod (*S. rugosa*).

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights and are often seen resting on vegetation during the day. Information is needed on host use in North Carolina.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S2S3]

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

COMMENTS: Loeffler (1994) reported that this species showed marked regional variation in abundance; large larval populations were found in certain fields in Massachusetts and Pennsylvania, while they were rarely found elsewhere. This suggests that local populations are spottily distributed across the range of this species, including in North Carolina.