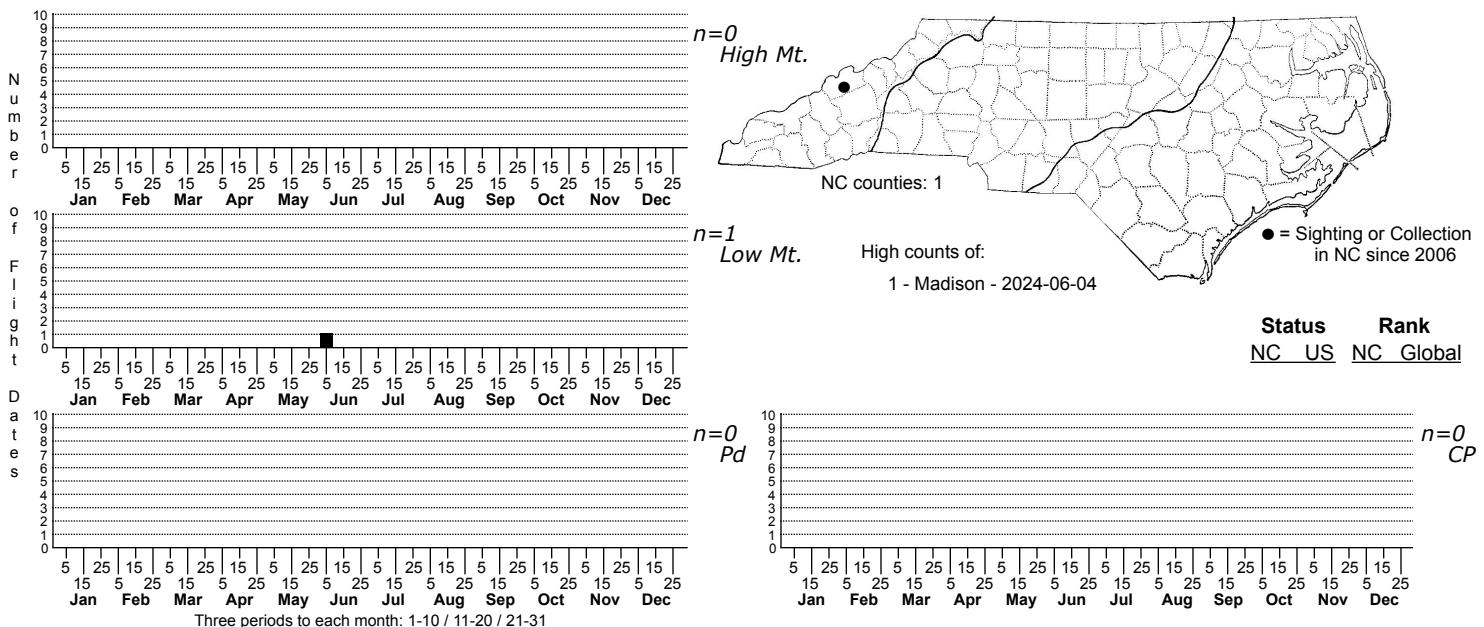


*Dichomeris purpureofusca* None



**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 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 purpureofusca</i> is distinctive in having a uniformly dark violet-brown forewing that is immaculate, an orange labial palp, and an antenna that is uniformly slender throughout its length. The antennae, legs and thorax are dark grayish-brown, and often have yellow and purple reflections (Hodges, 1986). The females are much smaller than males and are greatly outnumbered by males in collections. <i>Dichomeris purpureofusca</i> is very similar to <i>D. nonstrigella</i>, but can be easily distinguished by the antenna. It is slender throughout its entire length in <i>D. purpureofusca</i>, but conspicuously thicker on the basal two-thirds in <i>D. nonstrigella</i> (Hodges, 1986).

DISTRIBUTION: <u>*Dichomeris purpureofusca*</u> is found in North America where it has northern affinities. Scattered records are known from the West from the Northwest Territories, Alberta, Manitoba, South Dakota and Montana. The great majority of records are from the

East, where the range extends from Ontario eastward to Nova Scotia and Prince Edwards Island, and the US from Minnesota eastward to Maine, and southward through the Appalachian region where there appear to be isolated populations in southeastern Kentucky and western North Carolina. As of 2025, our only record is from a middle-elevation site (3,877') in Madison County.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Local populations are univoltine. The adults fly from May through August, with a peak flight in June. As of 2025, out one record from North Carolina was from early-June.

**HABITAT:** Local populations are generally associated with open habitats such as fields, woodland openings, and road corridors that support goldenrods, particularly Tall Goldenrod.

FOOD: Very few lava have been collected for this species and the only host that has been reported is Tall Goldenrod (*Solidago altissima*; Loeffler, 1994). As of 2025 we have no host records for North Carolina.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights and the larvae can be found on tall goldenrods.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S1S2]

## STATE PROTECTION:

## COMMENTS.