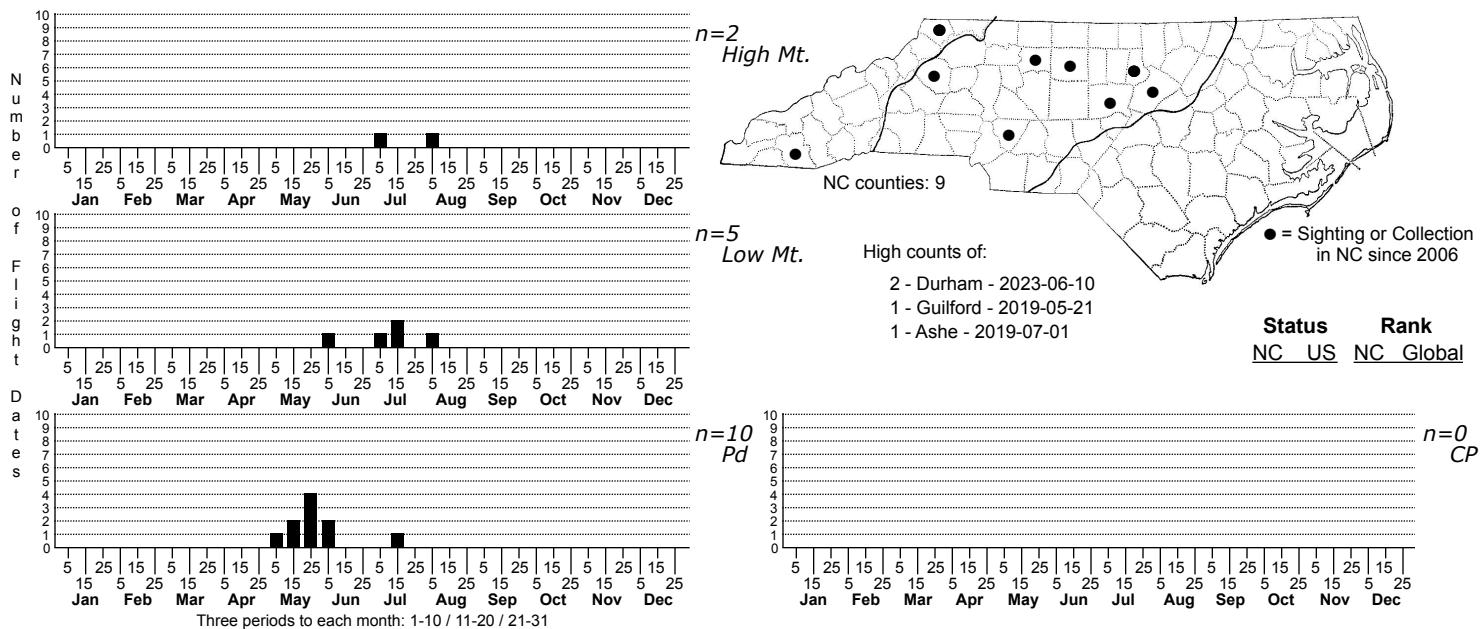


# Dichomeris heriguronis Black-edged Dichomeris



**FAMILY:** Gelechiidae **SUBFAMILY:** Dichomeridinae **TRIBE:**

**TAXONOMIC COMMENTS:** *Dichomeris* is a large genus with several hundred species that occur throughout the world. Hedges (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:** Hedges (1986)

**TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:**

**ID COMMENTS:** This is a distinctive *Dichomeris* with an orangish to orangish-brown forewing and dark-brown labial palps. The forewing has a somewhat diffuse dark-brown band in the subterminal region that is edged with a thin white line on its distal margin. A prominent orange fringe is present on the outer margin, and dark brown dusting occurs along the costa and inner margin. The dusting on the base of the inner margin continues onto the middle of the thorax and head, which are otherwise orange to brownish-orange. The labial palp is dark brown on its outer surface, with some intermixed orangish scales, while the antenna has a dark-brown scape and alternating rows of yellowish-gray and dark-gray scales along the shaft (Hedges, 1986).

**DISTRIBUTION:** Since being introduced in the late 1920's or early 1930's into New York or New Jersey, *D. heriguronis* has spread throughout a substantial portion of the eastern US and adjoining areas of southern Canada, including Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario. As of 2025, it occurs in the US from Maine westward through the Great Lakes region to northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin, and southward to Ohio, West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina and northern Georgia. As of 2025, our records are all from the Blue Ridge and Piedmont.

**FLIGHT COMMENT:** The adults have been observed from May through September in different areas of the range, with a seasonal peak typically in June and July. As of 2025, our records are from early-May through early-August, with Piedmont populations flying about three weeks earlier than those in the Blue Ridge.

**HABITAT:** Local populations are generally found in areas where either ornamental or native cherries and their relatives such as peaches are present.

**FOOD:** Larvae feed on a variety of *Prunus* species, and there are BugGuide records for Sweet Cherry (*Prunus avium*), Fire Cherry (*P. pensylvanica*), and Peach (*P. persica*). There are also reports from oak and pine needing verification (Hedges, 1986; Park et al., 2022).

**OBSERVATION METHODS:** The adults are attracted to lights and the larvae can be found in folded or tied leaves of cherries and peaches.

**NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS:** GNR [S3S4]

**STATE PROTECTION:**

**COMMENTS:**