

## Euhyponomeutoides gracilariella None

FAMILY: Yponomeutidae SUBFAMILY: TRIBE:

TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS: <i>Euhyponomeutoides</i> is a small genus of moths that includes both North American and Eurasian species. Only one species is known from North America.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: ONLINE PHOTOS: TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: This species is larger than most of our micromoths with forewings that vary from 7-9.5 mm. The following description is based in part on those by Busck (1904) and Powell and Opler (2009). The overall body form resembles that of a <i>Caloptilia</i>, with individuals having elongated, narrow wings. The forewing is buckled near the middle to form an elongated, rounded ridge that extends along much of the length of the wing. The ground color varies from rusty red to a more subdued reddish brown or coppery brown and has varying levels of dark scaling. This can vary form almost none to more extensive dark scaling that tends to form broken lines in the subcostal and subdorsal regions. The head tuft varies from yellowish brown to dirty yellow and tends to be lighter colored than the general ground color of the forewing. The labial palps are heavily dusted with black scales on the outside and the antenna is light gray with narrow black annulations. The legs are often heavily dusted above with dark scales, particularly on the forelegs.

DISTRIBUTION: As currently recognized, <i>Euhyponomeutoides gracilariella</i> is a wide-ranging species that occurs across much of southern Canada from British Columbia to Nova Scotia. In the US, populations have been found from southern Alaska southward to northwestern California, in the Rocky Mountains southward to Colorado, and in Maine and Minnesota. Two populations were recently discovered at Mount Mitchell at approximately 6,500' in elevation, and at a second lower-elevation site in Swain Co. The southern Appalachian populations appear to constitute an extreme southern disjunct from other eastern populations in Maine and Minnesota.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The flight season is poorly documented for regional populations, with records extending from March through August across the range of the species. On two occasions Jim Petranka reared adults from larvae on <i>Ribes</i> at Mt. Mitchell that eclosed in mid-September about a month after the larvae were collected, while one adult was collected in late July at a lower-elevation site in Swain Co.

HABITAT: Local populations are dependent on  $\langle i \rangle$ Ribes $\langle /i \rangle$  as hosts and appear to favor northern or high-elevation sites with the host plants.

FOOD: As of 2024, our only larval records are from a high-elevation site at Mt. Mitchell where larvae were feeding on an undetermined <i>Ribes</i>

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: The adults do not appear to be attracted to lights and most records are based of rearing adults from larvae on gooseberries.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S1]

## STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: This is an apparently rare species in North Carolina that as of 2022 is only known from one very high-elevation site at Mount Mitchell. As with the two species of  $\langle i \rangle$ Entephria $\langle /i \rangle$ , it appears to be an extreme disjunct and is highly likely to be a relict from a much wider Pleistocene distribution. As such, it may be highly vulnerable to the warming and drying effects of climate change.