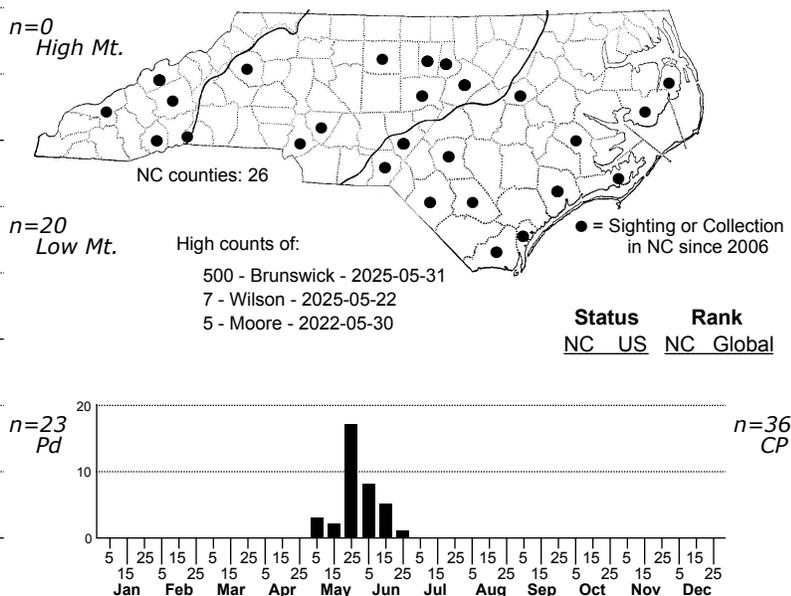
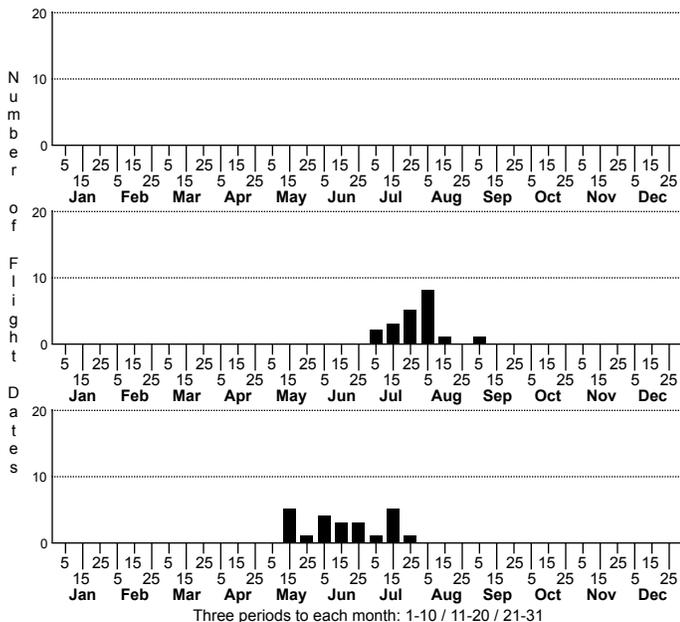


*Zelleria retiniella* Brindled Zelleria



FAMILY: Yponomeutidae SUBFAMILY: Yponomeutinae TRIBE: [Yponomeutinae]  
 TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS:

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

ID COMMENTS: *Zelleria retiniella* is a small moth that has a distinct pattern, with the bright white head and thorax contrasting with an irregularly banded, orangish and white forewing. The maxillary palp is orange, while the labial palp is mostly white with a prominent, upturned scale tuft. The antenna is white with brown annulations, and the thorax is white, except for a dusting of orange scales on the posterior margin. The forewing has a series of highly irregular, transverse, white and orange bands that often anastomose, with the orange color predominating on the apical third of the wing. The white areas often have a sprinkling of brown scales on them. The outer fringe is white with a sprinkling of dark brown scales at the base and a denser group on the outer margin. The hindwings are dull white, and the legs mostly white with an orange band or two on the tarsi.

DISTRIBUTION: *Zelleria retiniella* is primarily found in the southeastern US, with the range extending from eastern Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, western Tennessee, southeastern Missouri and southern Indiana eastward to Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina, then more narrowly along coastal areas to Massachusetts and New Hampshire. As of 2025, we have records from all three physiographic provinces, and mostly from the southern three-fourths of the state.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been found from March to August in different areas of the range, with a seasonal peak from May through July. As of 2025, our records extend from early-May to early-September, with populations in the Blue Ridge flying about a month later than those in the Coastal Plain. Local populations in North Carolina appear to be univoltine.

HABITAT: Records in the Coastal Plain of North Carolina come mainly from Longleaf Pine habitat, including sand ridges. Pines are also present in a number of other sites in North Carolina where this species has been observed.

FOOD: The host plants appear to be unknown but a related species, *Z. haimbachi*, has similar coloration as an adult and has larvae that feed on the needles of Shortleaf Pine (*Pinus echinata*) (Forbes, 1923).

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S4S5]

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

COMMENTS: