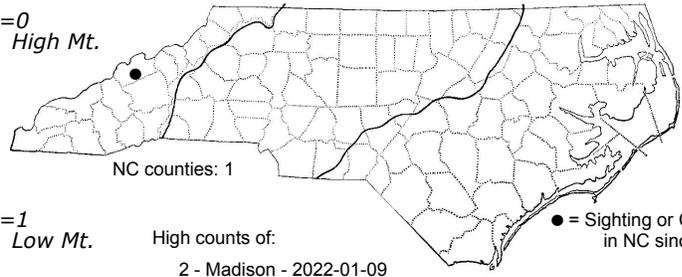
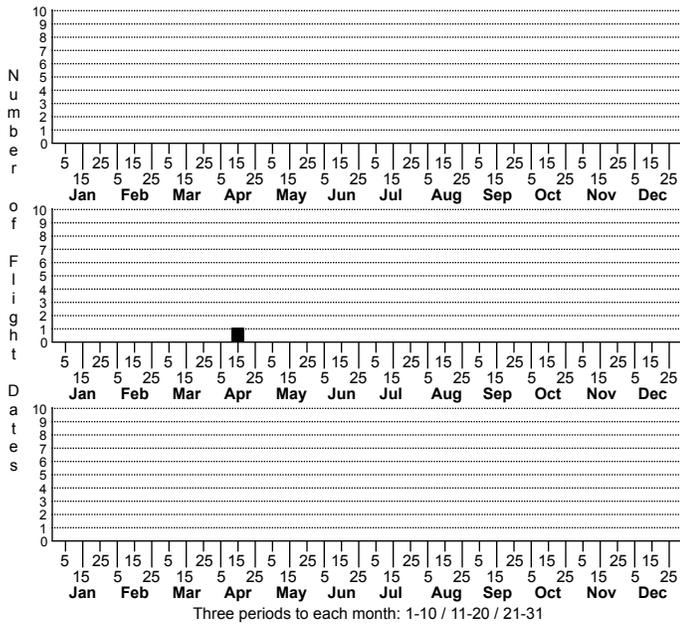
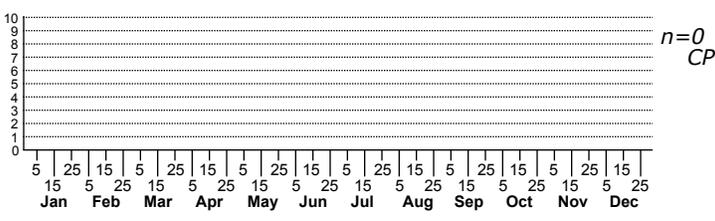


*Argyresthia affinis* None



High counts of:  
 2 - Madison - 2022-01-09  
 1 - Madison - 2022-04-13

Status		Rank	
NC	US	NC	Global



FAMILY: *Argyresthiidae* SUBFAMILY: TRIBE:  
 TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Braun (1940)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The following description is from that of Braun (1940) and based on specimens from southwestern Ohio and central Kentucky. The labial palp, head and head tuft are white. The antenna is whitish near the base, but otherwise dark fuscous with whitish annulations. The forewing is white, with a sparse sprinkling of brown scales arranged in transverse strigae, and marked with dark brown spots and fasciae. At the basal fourth of the inner margin there is a brown spot that reaches to the fold. A little farther out there is a slightly oblique costal patch, with its inner edge only slightly separated from the dorsal spot, and often obsolete on the costa. At the middle of the wing there is an irregular transverse band that is often constricted below the costa and at the fold, with its median part sometimes replaced by a mere sprinkling of brown scales. At two-thirds the wing length, the costal and dorsal streaks unite to form an interrupted and slightly oblique fascia, with its dorsal arm farther removed from the median fascia than its costal arm. Along the costa beyond this, there are two more brown spots, with the second the larger, and the first often obsolete. At the apex there are a few dark-brown scales arranged around the tip in a broad curve. The cilia are pure white along the inner margin and faintly grayish on the termen, with two brown lines around the apex and in the upper half of the termen. The hindwings and cilia are white, with a very faint ochereous tinge towards the apex. The legs are white, with the front and middle pair more or less shaded with fuscous, and having the tips of the segments darker. The hind pair has only the tips of the tarsi fuscous.

Braun (1940) noted that this species most closely resembles *A. thuiella*, but has a white hindwing and a broader forewing. It also has a broad curve of brown scales around the apex, in contrast to the sharp angle of *A. thuiella*. The one specimen that we have as of 2025 was reared from Eastern Redcedar Cedar and is worn. It clearly does not resemble any of the other three species of *Argyresthia* that feed on Eastern Red Cedar, which all have bold patterning on the forewing. We are provisionally assigning this specimen to *A. affinis*, with the hope of getting more specimens in the future so that the genitalia can be examined. The larval life history is also consistent with that of *A. thuiella* (Freeman, 1972).

DISTRIBUTION: *Argyresthia affinis* appears to be a rare species that was previously described in 1940 from specimens taken in southwestern Ohio and central Kentucky. Freeman (1972) also reported it from extreme southern Ontario. As of 2025, we have a single rearing record from Madison County that may be the only specimen that has been taken in the US since around 1940.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults fly after the spring warm-up. Freeman (1972) found them in late-May and early-June in Ontario, and Braun (1940) from May 12-20 at her sites in southwestern Ohio and central Kentucky.

HABITAT: Local populations are found in the vicinity of stands of Eastern Red Cedar.

FOOD: The larvae appear to feed only on Eastern Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) (Braun, 1940; Freeman, 1972), which has been confirmed as the host in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: We recommending making attempts to rear the adults from Eastern Red Cedar.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR SNR [S1S2]

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: This species appears to be rare, with the only known populations from extreme southern Ontario, southwestern Ohio, central Kentucky, and western North Carolina. As of 2025, we have a single record from Madison County where a small breeding population occurs.