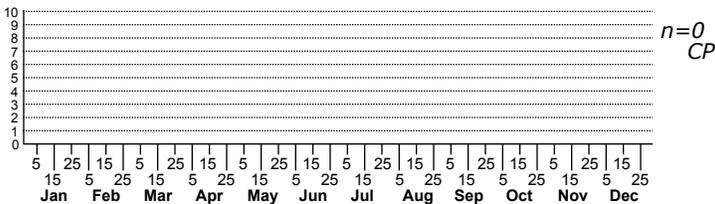
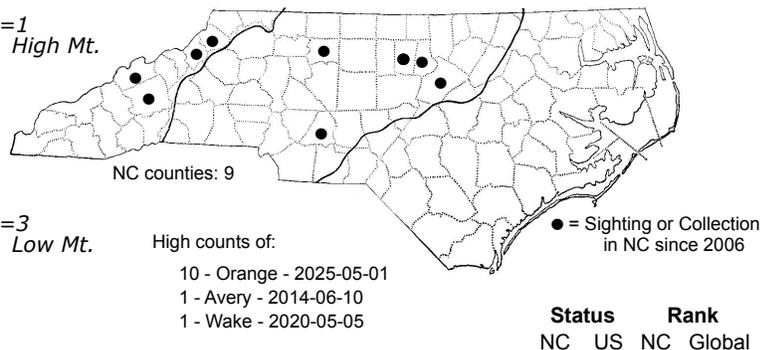
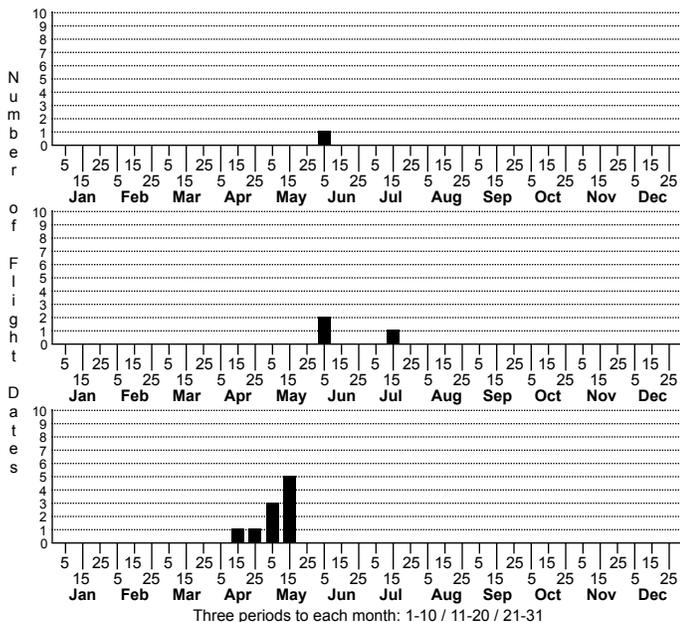


Argyresthia austerella None



FAMILY: *Argyresthiidae* SUBFAMILY: TRIBE:
 TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:
 ONLINE PHOTOS:
 TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Busck (1907a)
 TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: *Argyresthia austerella* is an easily recognizable species that has a silvery-white forewing with two wide blackish-brown bands near the middle of the wing that run nearly parallel to each other. These are followed by an extensive area of concolorous blotching on the apical fourth of the wing. The head and thorax are silvery-white above, while the antenna is boldly annulated with alternating blackish-brown and white bands.

The two bands on the forewing run obliquely from the inner margin outwardly to the costa, where they nearly merge. The first begins along the inner margin at around one-third the wing length from the base, and the second just beyond one-half. The second is wider than the first, and both tend to gradually widen towards the costa. The second band is followed by a confused region of concolorous, irregular blotches and spots that are partially fused and extend to the outer margin. Additional sparse spotting is often present between the two bands on the costal half, and along the costal between the base and the first band. The fringe along the outer margin has a mix of white and grayish-brown scales, with a dark basal band sometimes evident. The hindwing and fringe are grayish-brown, and the legs are white with dark-brown spots along the outer portions.

DISTRIBUTION: *Argyresthia austerella* is broadly distributed across much of the eastern half of the US, as well southern Ontario and Quebec. In the US the range extends from Maine and other New England states southwestward to Georgia and central Florida, and westward to central Texas, central Oklahoma, eastern Kansas, Iowa and Minnesota. As of 2025, all of our records are from the Piedmont and Blue Ridge.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Adults have been observed from February through September in different areas of the range, with those in the southernmost populations flying earlier in the year. As of 2025, our records range from mid-April through mid-July, with populations in the Blue Ridge flying a few weeks later than those in the Piedmont.

HABITAT: As of 2025, most of our records are from sites with hardwood forests, and primarily from bottomland and mesic sites.

FOOD: As of 2025, the hosts plant are apparently undocumented.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR SNR [S3]

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

COMMENTS: