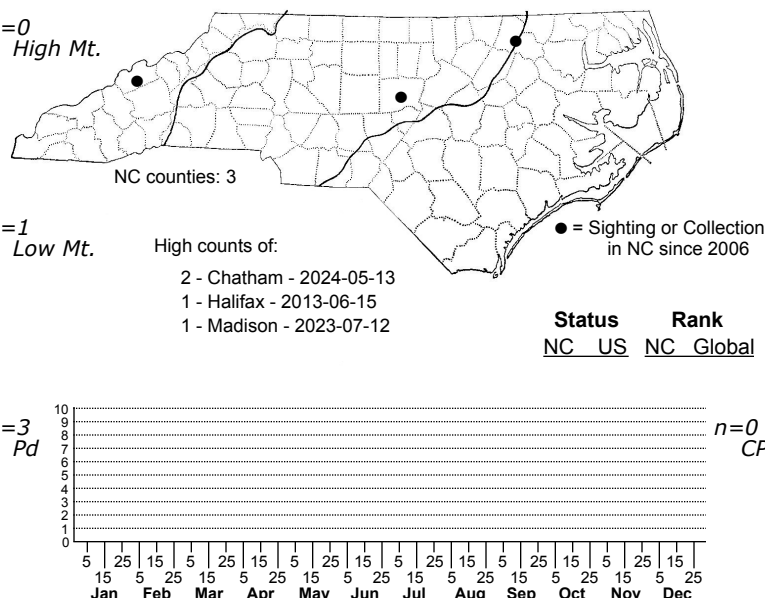
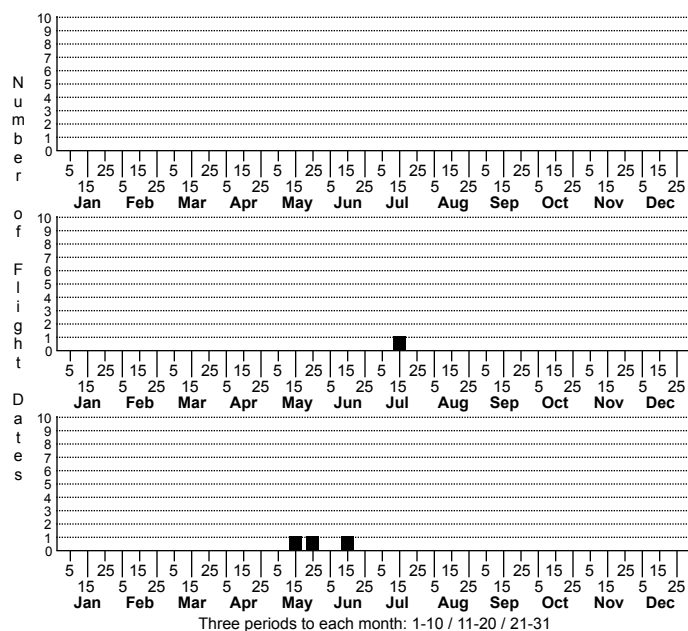


## *Olethreutes connectum* Bunchberry Leafroller Moth



FAMILY: Tortricidae SUBFAMILY: Olethreutinae TRIBE: Olethreutini

TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS: *Olethreutes* is a large genus with over 130 recognized species worldwide. North America has around 80 recognized species, with at least 37 species occurring in North Carolina. Some species are very difficult to identify due to interspecific similarities in color and forewing pattern and only subtle differences in genitalia (Gilligan et al., 2008). In many instances, knowledge of the host plant is essential for a confident determination. All of the Nearctic species are leaf-tiers or leaf-rollers on deciduous trees and shrubs.

### FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

### ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: McDunnough (1935)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: *Olethreutes connectum* is distinctive in having the posterior half of the dark-brown to blackish basal patch of the forewing aligning with the concolorous anterior portion of the medial fascia along the costa. The two typically connect to form a continuous dark shade from the base of the dorsal margin to the mid-costa, but sometimes are interrupted by lighter scaling in the interfascial area (Gilligan et al., 2008). A second distinctive feature is that the costa is whitish to light buff from the wing base to the medial fascia, and is usually marked with a series of five or six short, dark strigulae. The other conspicuous marks include two triangular, brownish to obscurely olivaceous bulges along the inner margin on the apical half of the wing. These produce an hourglass shape when a resting individual is viewed directly overhead. There is also an elongated postmedial bar, and three or four strigulae on the apical third of the costa that project towards the subapical region of the outer margin. The areas that surround the fascia and patches are lighter colored and often finely striated, while the cilia are dusted with blackish scales and have a black basal line. The hindwing varies from brown to grayish-brown. The head of unworn specimens is dark brown to blackish, and the thorax mostly dark brown to blackish with two or three faint, pale, horizontal lines. The palps are tawny white except for a dark-brown tip.

DISTRIBUTION: *Olethreutes connectum* tends to be a cool-climate species, with the range extending in a line from Arkansas to North Carolina, then northward to Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, New York and the New England states. It also occurs in adjoining areas of southern Ontario and Quebec.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been observed from May through September in different areas of the range, with a seasonal peak from June through August. As of 2024, our very limited records are from mid-May through mid-July.

HABITAT: Local populations are generally found in areas that support wetland dogwoods such as shrub swamps and other shoreline shrub thickets.

FOOD: The larvae appear to specialize on dogwoods (MacKay, 1959; McDunnough, 1933; Prentice, 1965; Godfrey et al., 1987; Brown et al., 2008; Gilligan et al., 2008). The reported host include Silky Dogwood (*Swida amomum* [= *Cornus amomum*]), Stiff Dogwood (*Swida foemina* [= *Cornus foemina*]), and Red-osier Dogwood (*S. sericea* [= *Cornus sericea*]).

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights. More information is needed on the larval life history and ecology.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S1S3

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

COMMENTS: This species appears to reach its lower range limits in North Carolina where it appears to be uncommon due in part to its dependency on dogwoods that frequent wetlands.