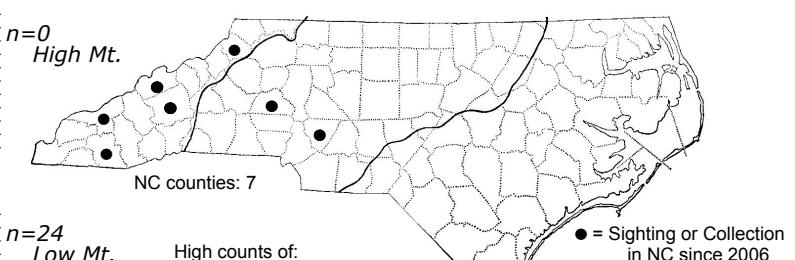
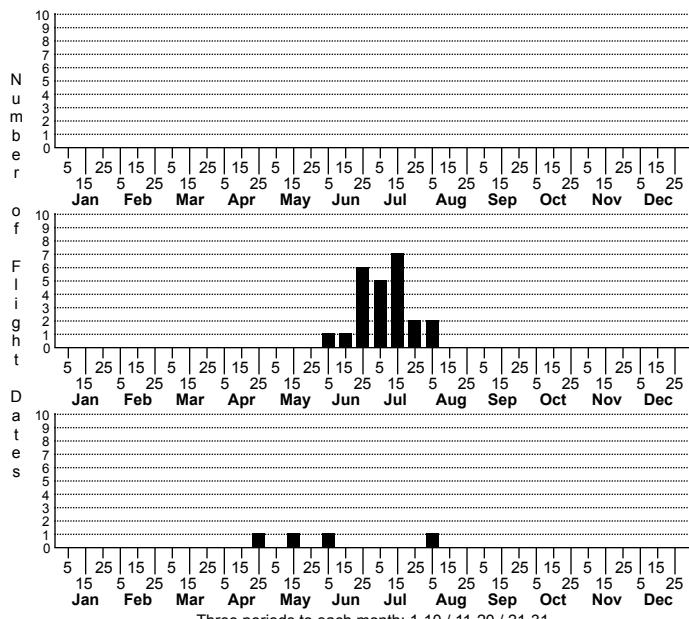


# *Olethreutes inornatana* Inornate Olethreutes



High counts of:  
 1 - Catawba - 2011-04-23  
 1 - Catawba - 2017-06-06  
 1 - Madison - 2019-06-10

Status	Rank		
NC	US	NC	Global

n=0  
CP

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: Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: *Olethreutes inornatana* is a distinctly colored *Olethreutes* that is easily recognized. The head, thorax and basal third of the forewing along the inner margin have an orangish wash, while the palp is orange-tinted with a dark terminal tip. The remainder of the forewing has a sordid white or grayish-white ground with numerous darker reticulations. Darker dusting is usually present along the costa, the termen and the inner margin, including an outwardly oblique dark patch that extends from the base of the inner margin. In heavily dusted individuals there is often evidence of a diffuse whitish streak that extends from the base to the distal end of the discal cell, and much of the orangish coloration can be masked (Gilligan et al., 2008). Patches that are margined with white lines are present on the apical third of the wing and as part of the medial fascia, and appear to be concolorous, but slightly darker than the surrounding ground color. The apical half of the costa has four or five reddish, triangular marks that decrease in size towards the apex, and that alternate with black lines that are margined with whitish scales on both sides. These marks are often masked in individuals with heavy black dusting in the same vicinity.

DISTRIBUTION: *Olethreutes inornatana* is found primarily in eastern North America, with a few records from western North America, including Alberta and Saskatchewan. It occurs in eastern Canada in southern Manitoba, Ontario, and Quebec, and in the US from Maine and other New England states southwestward to North Carolina, northern Georgia and central Alabama, and westward to Mississippi, western Tennessee, Missouri, Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota. It is generally absent from most of the southeastern Coastal Plain. As of 2024, most of our records are from lower-elevation sites in the Blue Ridge, along with two sites in the Piedmont.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Adults have been observed from May through August in different areas of the range. As of 2024, our records extend from late-April through early-August, with Piedmont populations flying about a month earlier than those in the Blue Ridge.

HABITAT: Local populations are generally associated with hardwood forests and forest edges, including semi-wooded residential neighborhoods.

FOOD: The larvae appear to be polyphagous (Brown et al., 2008), but there is uncertainty about the validity of some reported hosts. Gilligan et al. (2008) noted that the larvae have been reared on Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*), and Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*; Heinrich, 1926; Godfrey et al., 1987). Heinrich (1926) also reported the use of Coastal Sweet-pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*), an oak (*Quercus* sp.), a walnut (*Juglans* sp.) and a dogwood (*Swida* sp.), but Gilligan et al. (2008) felt that these are suspect due to possible misidentification of the adults by earlier workers. Additional studies are needed to verify the hosts, other than cherries, that are used by this species.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights. More information is needed on host use and habitat preferences in North Carolina.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR[S2S4]

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

COMMENTS: This species can be locally abundant in the Blue Ridge during its flight season.