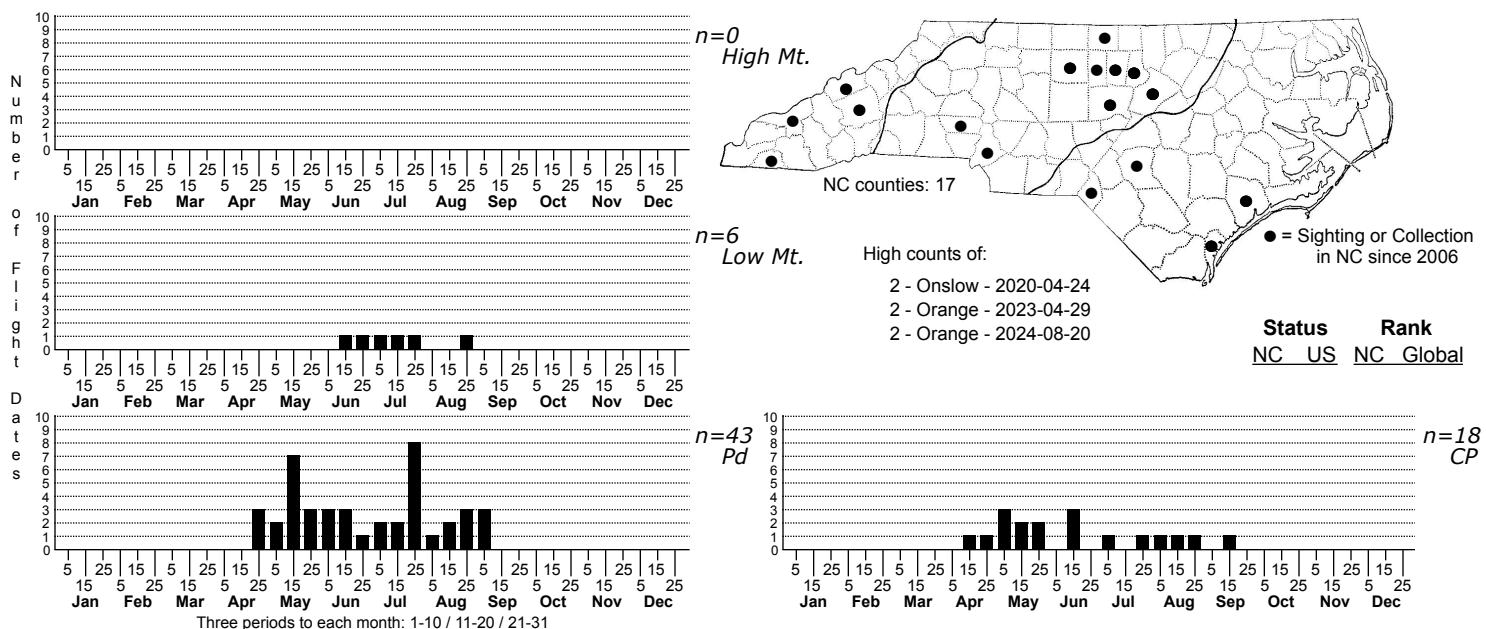


Diachorisia velatella Brown-spotted Diachorisia



FAMILY: Tineidae SUBFAMILY: Meessiinae TRIBE: [Meessiini]

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: *Diachorisia* is a monotypic genus that is restricted to eastern North America.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1923)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The following description is based in part on Forbes' description (1923). The head has a mix of brown and gray scales and the palps are dark outwardly. The antenna is whitish with varying levels of faint fuscous dusting. The ground color of the forewing is white and dusted with fuscous. There are four or five small dark spots along the costa. These begin just before the base and are spaced roughly equidistantly to about two-thirds the wing length. Two larger, elongated blotches occur near the mid-length of the wing. These are spaced between the costa and inner margin, and the costal blotch is slightly more basal. Two additional large blotches are usually evident, one posteriorly and one anterior to the two paired blotches at the mid-length of the wing. Both are centered between the costa and inner margin. The apical region typically has one or more additional small spots or blotches, and one or two other small blotches are sometimes present along the inner margin. The cilia are white with scattered fuscous dusting, and often have two or more rather poorly organized blotches. The legs are white with varying levels of darker spotting and banding.

DISTRIBUTION: *Diachorisia velatella* is found in eastern North America, including Ontario and much of the eastern US. Populations have been found from Maine and Massachusetts southwestward to the Gulf Coastal region. The range extends as far west as central Texas and central Oklahoma. We have scattered records from throughout the state.

FLIGHT COMMENT: In most areas of the range the adults are active from April-Sept, but they can be found year-round in Florida. As of 2020, our records extend from April through September.

HABITAT: The habit requirements are largely unknown, but the species has often been collected in semi-wooded residential areas.

FOOD: The feeding ecology of the larvae is undocumented. Many of the tineids feed on fungi or detritus, so it is plausible that *D. velatella* does the same.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR SU

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

COMMENTS: