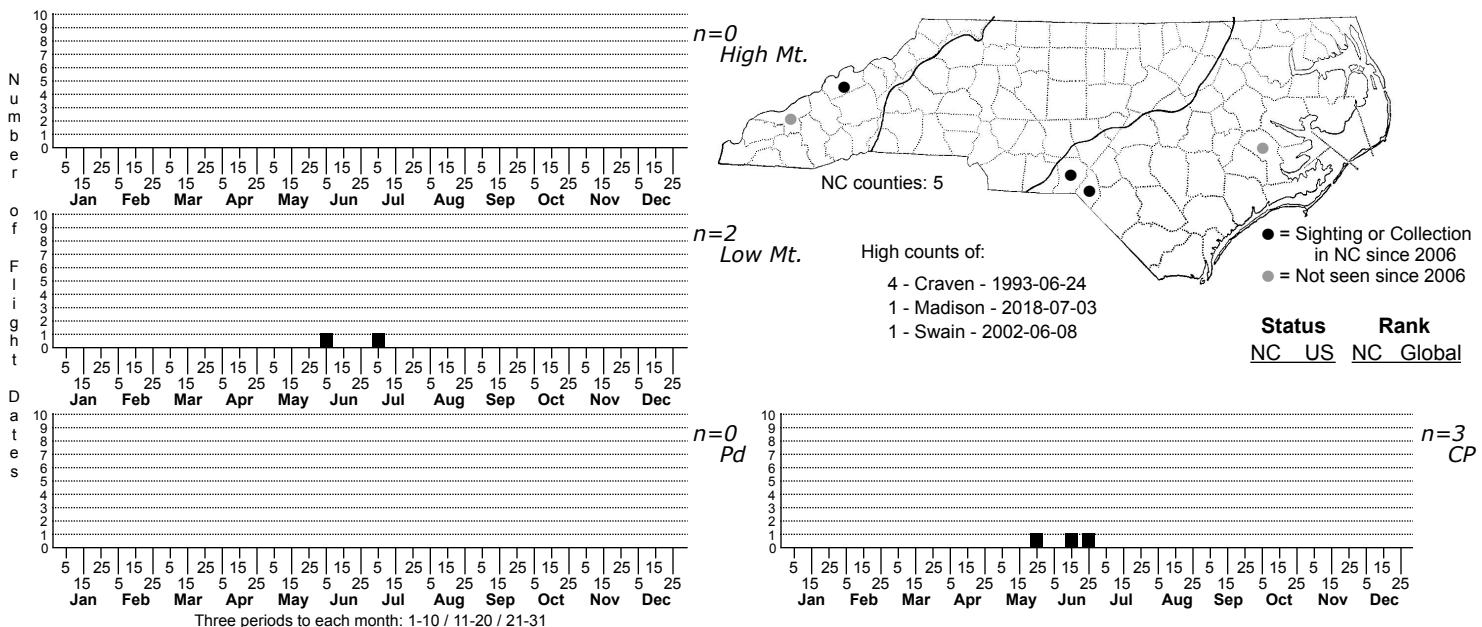


Olethreutes sericorandum None



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:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: *Olethreutes sericorandum* varies substantially in coloration and has a general pattern of marks that are similar to certain other *Olethreutes*. The larger marks are often dark brown and variably suffused with olive gold, which produces an overall golden-brown appearance (Gilligan et al., 2008), but other color variants occur such as predominantly reddish-brown individuals. The major dark marks on the forewing include a basal patch that extends obliquely outward from the inner margin at about one-fifth the wing length before ending near the center of the wing, and a medial fascia that consists of a costal tooth, middle tooth and a dorsal patch with the apex narrowing posteriorly. The dorsal patch may or may not be joined to the middle tooth at the base, and both teeth are somewhat blunt at their tips and not exceptionally long. The region between the basal patch and the costa has a disorganized group of mottled scales that may have an overall tan or reddish-brown color.

Beyond the middle fascia there is a triangular, subtornal patch with the tip projecting inward, with the subtornal patch usually separated from the patch on the median fascia by a gap. The remaining large mark is an elongated, oblique, postmedial bar that begins below the costa at around four-fifths the wing length and projects towards the dorsal half of the outer margin. A series of three or four triangular spots are present along the apical half of the costa that curve posteriorly and narrow to a fine tip, with the one next to the costal tooth usually noticeably smaller than the others, and the second one often long enough to touch or merge with the subapical patch. These alternate with pairs of white dashes that continue as leaden lines that anastomose and project towards the apical half of the outer margin. The fringe is light-gray with varying levels of darker scales, and with a dark basal line. The hindwing is brown with a whitish fringe that has a dark basal band. Specimens are best identified by using a combination of the external morphology and the genitalia.

DISTRIBUTION: *Olethreutes sericorandum* is found throughout much of the eastern US east of the Mississippi River, as well as in southern Ontario and Quebec. In the US the range extends from Maine southward to northern Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi and westward to Tennessee, Missouri, Kentucky and Ohio. As of 2024, we have only three sites records based on genitalia and barcoding, with two from the Blue Ridge and one from the Coastal Plain.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults are active during the summer months from May through August, with a seasonal peak in June and July. As of 2024, our sparse records are from early-June to early-July.

HABITAT:

FOOD: Heinrich (1926) reported bayberry (*Morella*) as a larval host. Aaron Hunt (BugGuide) successfully reared an adult from Northern Bayberry (*Morella pensylvanica*) and Schaffner (1959) received a large shipment of larvae that were also taken from bayberry, suggesting that this is the primary host at sites where bayberry prevails. Other hosts are likely used elsewhere since *O. sericorandum* is commonly found in areas outside of the range of bayberries (Gilligan et al., 2008).

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights and can be reared from larvae on bayberries.

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: