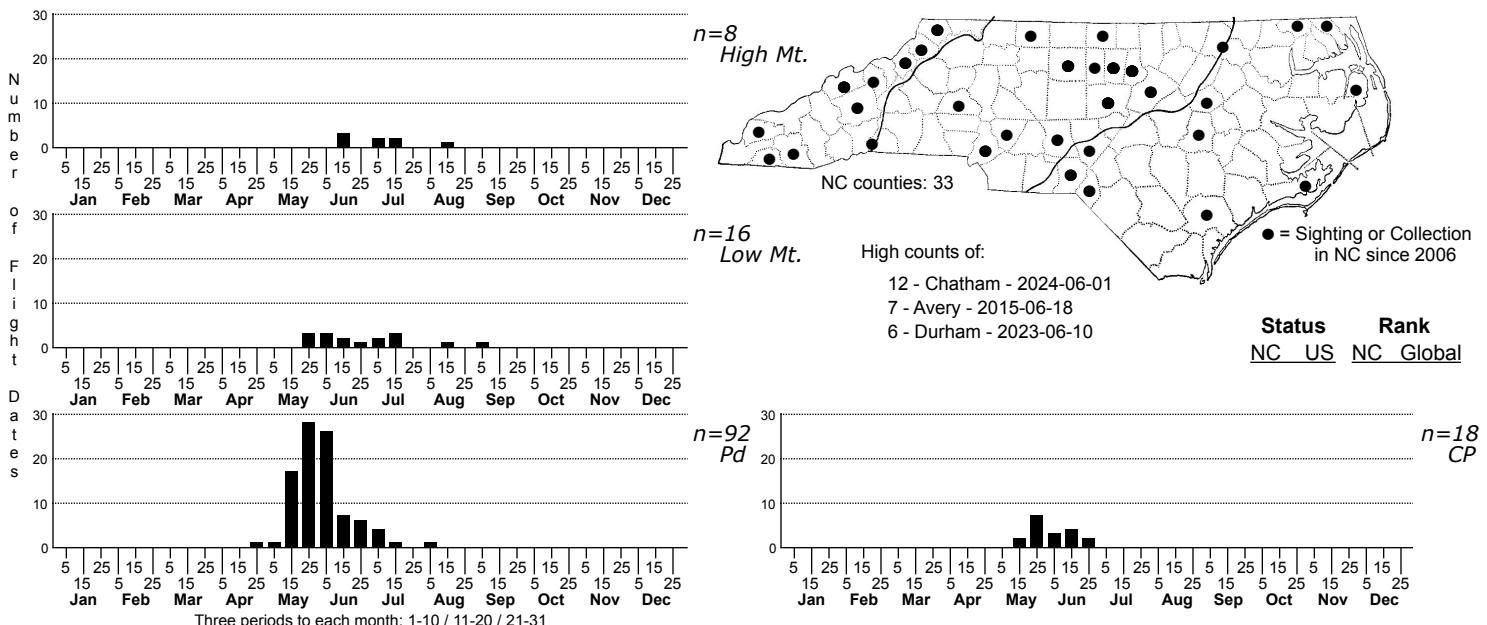


Olethreutes fasciatana Banded Olethreutes



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: This species is best distinguished by it having a single white transverse band on the forewing at around one-third the wing length that contrasts with a nearly black basal patch and a darker medial area. On fresh specimens, the head and thorax are brownish-black to black, with the palps mostly white with a light brownish dusting on the upper side. The dark-brown to brownish-black basal patch on the forewing is weakly arched outward and fills the entire basal third of the wing. It abuts against a wide, white, transverse band that has a few darker striations or specks within. The white transverse band is bordered posterior by a broad region of darker scales from around one-half to three-fourths the wing length that are a varying mix of blackish, orangish and leaden-gray scales, with the blackish scales predominating. The terminal fourth of the wing has three pairs of whitish strigulae along the costa that fuse and project towards the middle of the outer margin where they meet a postmedial bar that has a mix of orangish and blackish scales. The tornus commonly has a whitish spot, and there is a blackish spot at the apex. The fringe is whitish to tawny with several darker patches and a dark basal line. The hindwing is brown with a lighter fringe and a thin basal line. Worn specimens are usually less colorful, with brown to blackish-brown coloration predominating.

<Olethreutes fasciatana> is similar to a few other species such as *<O. valdana>* and *<Orthotaenia undulana>*, but the posterior margin of the basal patch of these species is usually noticeably wavy and irregular, and the terminal fourth of the wing has more extensively developed white scaling to produce a second, highly-irregular, transverse band that extends from the tornus to the costa at around three-fourths the wing length. The fringe of *<Olethreutes fasciatana>* is also distinctly patterned, with the apex black, followed by three alternating patches of white and black scales, with the largest black patch where the postmedial bar contacts the outer margin.

DISTRIBUTION: *<Olethreutes fasciatana>* is found throughout most of the eastern US and in adjoining areas of southern Canada from Manitoba eastward to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. In the US the range extends from Maine and other New England states southward along the Atlantic Seaboard to northern Florida, and westward to eastern Texas, eastern Oklahoma, eastern Kansas, eastern Nebraska, Minnesota and northeastern Nebraska. This species occurs statewide in North Carolina, but is less common in the Coastal Plain relative to the Piedmont and Blue Ridge.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been observed from March to September in different areas of the range. As of 2024, our records extend from mid-May to early-September, with peak seasonal activity from May through July.

HABITAT: This species is common in many areas that lack poplars and where willows are the likely hosts.

FOOD: The larvae appear to specialize on poplars and willows (Prentice, 1965; Miller, 1987; Brown et al. 2008; Lam et al., 2011). The reported hosts include Balsam Poplar (*<Populus balsamifera>*), Quaking Aspen (*<Populus tremuloides>*) and willows (*<Salix>*). Forbes (1923) reported dock (*<Rumex>*) to be a host, which needs additional verification. Populations in North Carolina presumably feed on our native willows and perhaps other hosts, but remarkably little is known about host use in the US.

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

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S4S5

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 be secure within the state.