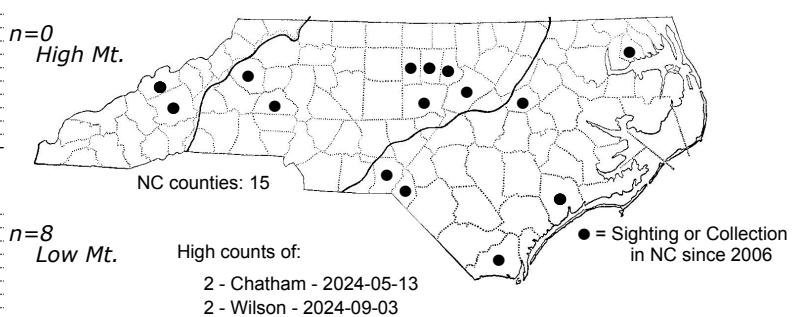
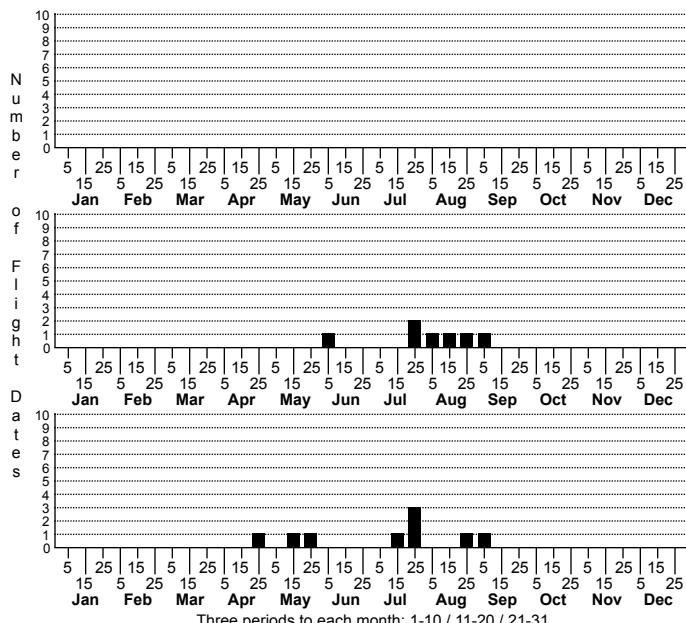


Olethreutes griseoalbana Putty-patched Moth



Status	Rank		
NC	US	NC	Global

n=12
CP

FAMILY: Tortricidae SUBFAMILY: Olethreutinae TRIBE: Olethreutini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: <i>Olethreutes</i> 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: This is a distinctively marked <i>Olethreutes</i> that is not easily confused with any other species. The palps are white and the head tuft, thorax, and antenna black. The ground color of the forewing is a sordid white and contrast sharply with three blotches along the inner margin. These include a prominent black basal blotch that terminates before reaching the costa, an olive-green blotch near the middle, and an oval-shaped black blotch beyond this at around three-fourths. The middle and posterior blotches are margined with white scales and often separated by a region with dark mottling. The apical half of the costa has a series of black spots with olive-green striae or bands extending from them and projecting rearward. The subapical one commonly curves posteriorly as a thin line and parallels the outer margin, where it is preceded by a relatively large, outwardly oblique postmedial bar composed of olive-green and blackish scaling. The fringe is blackish-gray with a black basal band, while the hindwing is medium brown with a somewhat lighter fringe that has a narrow basal line.

DISTRIBUTION: <i>Olethreutes griseoalbana</i> is found throughout much of the eastern US from New Hampshire and Massachusetts southward along the Atlantic Seaboard to Florida. The range extends westward to eastern Texas, Arkansas, Missouri, western Kentucky, Indiana and Michigan. This species also occurs in adjoining areas of southern Ontario, and can be found statewide in North Carolina.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been found from April through October in different areas of the range, with most flying from May through September. As of 2024, our records are from late-April through early-October. Most local populations in North Carolina appear to have two broods per year.

HABITAT: Local populations appear to use gums (<i>Nyssa</i>) as hosts, which can be found in habitats ranging from bottomland forests and swamp forests to mesic and drier forested sites.

FOOD: Tyler and Sabourin (2023) recently documented this species feeding on Blackgum (<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>), which is the only reported host as of 2024. We do not have any host records for North Carolina.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR[S3S4]

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

COMMENTS: This species is widespread and appears to be somewhat common within the state. More information is needed on host use and abundance before we can accurately assess its conservation status.