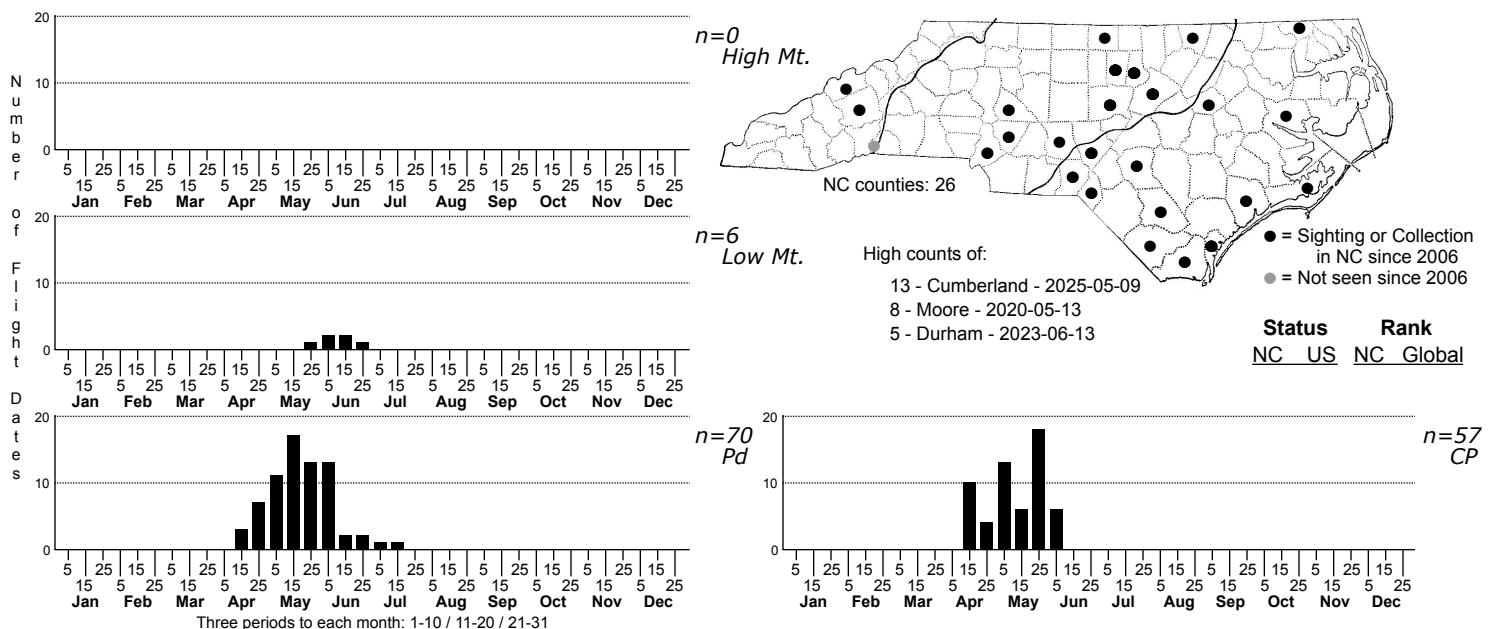


Retinia gemistrigulana Gray Retinia



FAMILY: Tortricidae SUBFAMILY: Olethreutinae TRIBE: Eucosmini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Kearfott (1905)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: <i>Retinia gemistrigulana</i> is distinctive among our <i>Retinia</i> in having an overall grayish color with a patchwork of lighter and darker gray marks that are separated by thin, blackish, transverse lines. The following description is based in part on that of Kearfott (1905) from specimens that were collected from Tryon, North Carolina. The head, palp, and thorax are light gray and speckled with fuscous and black, while the antenna is light gray and annulated with black. The forewing is pale gray overall and consists of an array of elongated, irregular patches that are delineated by numerous dark gray to blackish transverse lines. The patches are predominantly light gray, but usually have several darker patches interspersed. The cilia are gray, and the hindwing is dark gray with paler cilia. The abdomen and anal tuft are both gray.

DISTRIBUTION: <i>Retinia gemistrigulana</i> is widely distributed across much of the eastern US and adjoining areas of southern Canada (Nova Scotia westward to Ontario and Alberta). In the US the range extends from Maine southward to Florida and westward to Michigan, Wisconsin, Missouri, and eastern Texas. As of 2022 our records are almost all from the Coastal Plain and eastern and central Piedmont, with the exception of Polk and Buncombe counties to the west.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Local populations are presumed to be univoltine throughout the range as is the case with other <i>Retinia</i>. Specimens have been observed from March-July in different areas of the range, with southern populations active from March-April and northern populations from April-July. As of 2022, our records extend from mid-April through mid-July, with a peak in May in the Coastal Plain and Piedmont, and June in the lower mountains.

HABITAT: Local populations presumably use pines as hosts and have been found in habitats that range from sandy, xeric Sandhill communities to semi-wooded residential neighborhoods in the eastern Piedmont.

FOOD: Larval hosts are poorly documented, but other members of this genus feed on pines. Forbes (1923) lists Virginia Pine (<i>Pinus virginiana</i>), but this needs confirmation. The range in North Carolina suggests that this species primarily relies on one or more of the southern pine species as hosts.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights. More information is needed on host use and the habitat requirements for this species.

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 is widespread and locally common in the Coastal Plain and eastern Piedmont and shows no evidence of widespread declines.