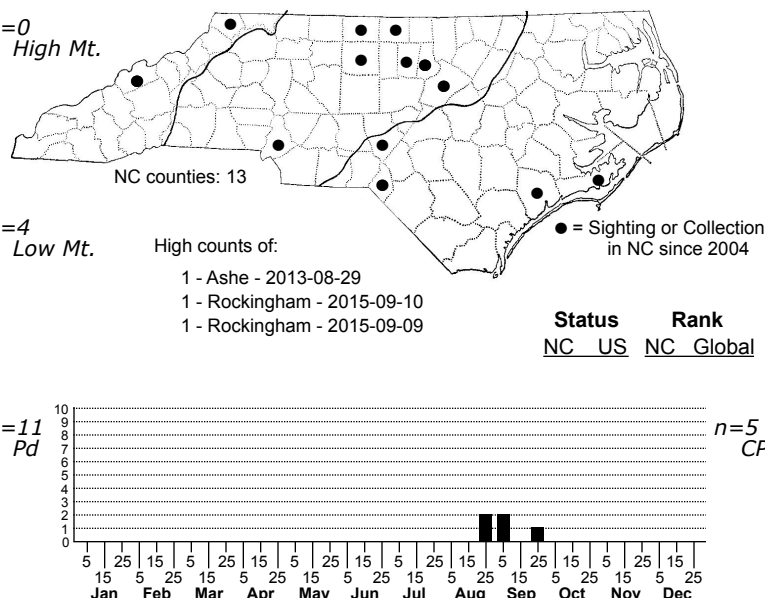
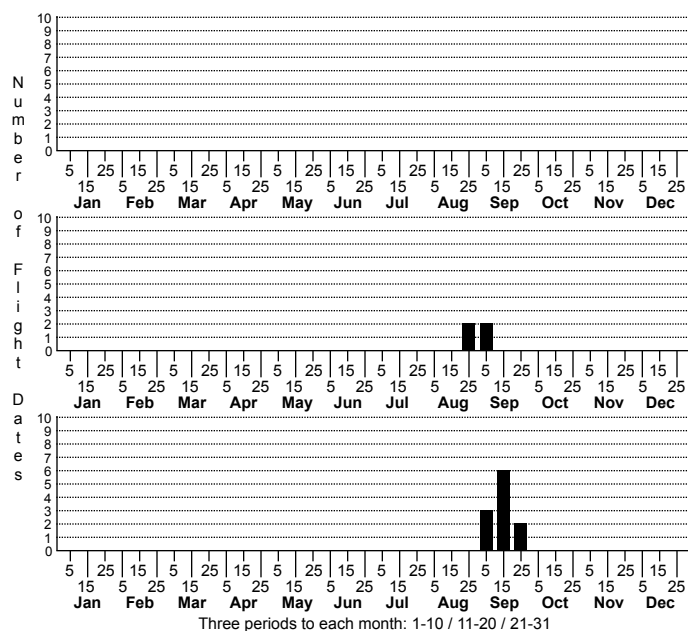


Eucosma rarácana Reddish Phaneta Moth



FAMILY: Tortricidae SUBFAMILY: Olethreutinae TRIBE: Eucosmini

TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: *Eucosma rarácana* is one of five species with similar genitalia that Wright and Gilligan (2015) recognized as the *parmatana* species group.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Kearfott (1907b); Wright and Gilligan (2015)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The following description is based primarily on that of Kearfott (1907b). The head is creamy white and faintly shaded with light brown on the tufts above the eyes. The palps are cream-white, with a dot of fuscous at the base and one at the middle of the second joint. The antenna is creamy white and shaded with fuscous in front. The thorax is salmon-pink and is somewhat lighter than the forewing ground. The forewing ground covers most of the wing, varies from light reddish-brown to reddish-fuscous, and is darker in the middle of the wing. The ocellus is the most conspicuous marking and reaches to the middle of wing. It is creamy white internally, has shining white vertical side bars, and has two horizontal black lines that are sometimes broken into dots. Occasionally there is a dot or two below these that is the beginning of a third line. The costa is lightly marked with whitish strigulae, and one or two faint leaden-metallic lines are often evident on the apical third of the costa that extend towards the termen. The fringe is pale yellow and speckled with gray towards the base. The hindwing and fringe are grayish-fuscous, and the legs are whitish with brown and blackish bands and dusting.

This species is easily identified based on its small size, reddish forewing, and white head. *Eucosma ochroterminana* is somewhat similar, but is much darker and has a brownish head.

DISTRIBUTION: *Eucosma rarácana* is broadly distributed across much of the eastern US and adjoining areas of southern Canada (Ontario; Quebec; Nova Scotia). In the US it occurs from Maine to southern Florida and westward to eastern Texas, eastern Kansas, eastern Nebraska, and eastern Minnesota. Scattered populations occur across North Carolina from barrier islands along the coast to lower-elevation sites in the Blue Ridge.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Local populations appear to be univoltine. The adults fly from June through October in most areas of the range, with a seasonal peak typically from July-September. As of 2022, our records are from late-August through September.

HABITAT: Local populations occur in old fields, prairies, the weedy margins of agricultural fields, and other early successional habitats. They also occur in pine savannas and other open woods that support a ground cover with composites.

FOOD: The larvae are thought to feed on Goldenrod (*Solidago*) based on a specimen in the USNM labeled 'Salidago' (Kearfott, 1907b). This seems to be the basis for others citing that the larvae use this host (e.g., Heinrich, 1923). Additional work is needed to verify the host use.

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: Populations occur statewide and show no evidence of widespread declines.

March 2024

The Moths of North Carolina - Early Draft

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