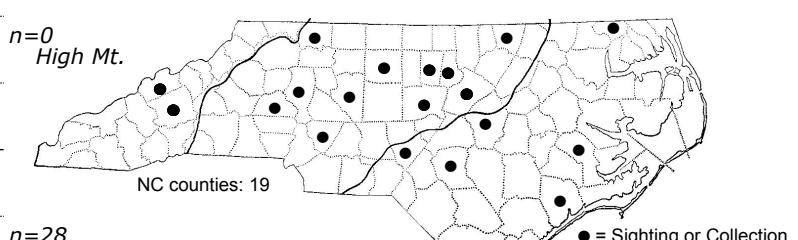
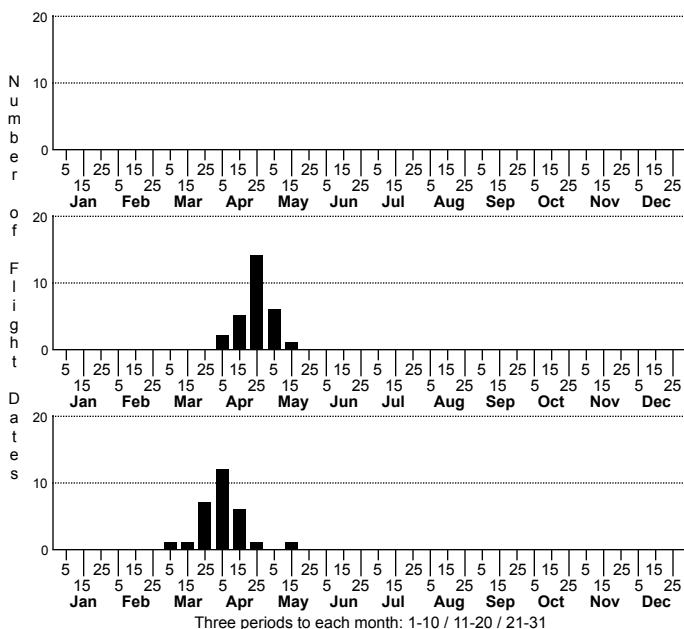


Dyseriocrania griseocapitella Chinquapin Leafminer Moth



High counts of:
 5 - Gates - 2017-04-12
 5 - Durham - 2022-05-12
 5 - Chatham - 2025-03-28

Status	Rank		
NC	US	NC	Global

n=6
CP

FAMILY: Eriocraiidæ SUBFAMILY: [Eriocraiidæ] TRIBE: [Eriocraiidæ]

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: <i>Dyseriocrania</i> is a small genus of primitive moths. There are only two recognized species in North America, and only one in North Carolina.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Davis (1978)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Davis (1978)

ID COMMENTS: The following description of the adults is based on the comprehensive revision of the superfamily Eriocraidoidea by Davis (1978). The face, upper head, and thorax are covered with long, predominantly white hairs that are intermixed with fuscous to produce a conspicuous light brown tuft. The antenna is brown above, slightly more than half the length of the forewing, and has 43-47 segments. The forewing is golden bronze and heavily mottled with minute specks of darker scales which are iridescent bluish purple. The apical fringe is pronounced and colored bronzy brown. The hindwing is paler and grayish with a slight purplish luster. The legs are white ventrally and light fuscous dorsally. This species is easily identified by a combination of the conspicuous tuft of dark hairs on the head and thorax, the conspicuous apical fringe, and the presence of scattered, iridescent bluish purple scales on the forewing.

DISTRIBUTION: <i>Dyseriocrania griseocapitella</i> ranges widely along the Atlantic states of North America from Nova Scotia south to northern Florida. It occurs as far west as Minnesota, Missouri, and Louisiana. In North Carolina, populations occur in all three physiographic provinces, but as of 2019 have only been found in the northern and central tiers of counties.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Populations are univoltine and the adults are active when the host plants are leafing out in late winter or spring. Adults have been documented from February through June in areas outside of North Carolina. As of 2021, our records are from mid-March through early May, with a seasonal peak in April.

HABITAT: Populations are found in a wide variety of habitats with oaks and chestnuts.

FOOD: Larvae are rather generalized leaf-miners on members of the Fagaceae. The reported hosts include American Chestnut (<i>Castanea dentata</i>), Chinese Chestnut (<i>C. mollissima</i>), Allegheny Chinquapin (<i>C. pumila</i>), White Oak (<i>Quercus alba</i>), Southern Red Oak (<i>Q. falcata</i>), Bear Oak (<i>Q. ilicifolia</i>), Water Oak (<i>Q. nigra</i>), Northern Red Oak (<i>Q. rubra</i>) and Black Oak (<i>Q. velutina</i>). In North Carolina, mines have been found on Allegheny Chinquapin, Black Oak, Blackjack Oak (<i>Q. marilandica</i>), Cherrybark Oak (<i>Q. pagoda</i>), Water Oak, Turkey Oak (<i>Q. laevis</i>), and Southern Red Oak.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to UV-lights. Populations can also be documented by locating the mines on expanding, tender leaves. The oviposition site often forms a hole as the leaf expands, and the frass is at least partly in long threads (Eiseman, 2019). Adults can be reared by collecting active mines and allowing the larvae to pupate within soil in jars or other containers.

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:
March 2026

The Moths of North Carolina - Early Draft