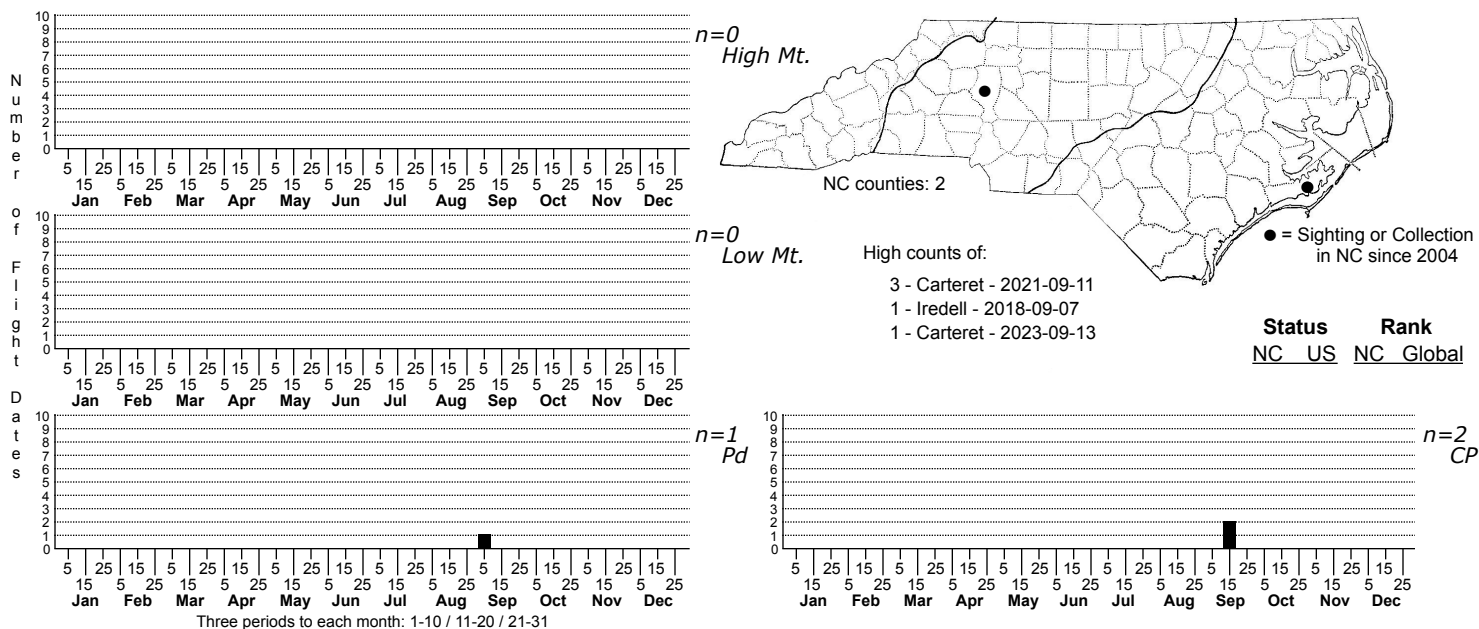


## *Eucosma argutipunctana* Coastal Eucosma Moth



FAMILY: Tortricidae SUBFAMILY: Olethreutinae TRIBE: Eucosmini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: *Eucosma argutipunctana* is a member of the *griseocapitana* species group of Wright and Gilligan (2015), which consists of five species that are generally similar in forewing appearance and genitalia. *Eucosma alabamiae* is the only other member of the group that is known to occur in North Carolina.

### FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Wright and Gilligan (2015)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The following description is based primarily on that of Blanchard and Knudson (1983). The head is mostly whitish with some brownish tipped scales on the vertex. The labial palp is whitish ochreous, with the third segment blackish. The antenna is whitish with prominent black scaling on the inner surface of the scape, while the thorax and patagia are whitish with dark brown central patches. The forewing ground color is whitish and is overlain on the basal two-thirds with strongly contrasting black to dark brown scales that tend to be arranged in evenly spaced, interrupted, vertical rows. The ocellus is ochreous with two or three weak black dashes near the center, and a short vertical black line along the inner margin. The dorsal, ventral, and outer margins of the ocellus are surrounded by areas with heavy salt-and-pepper patterning, as is the termen. The costa is marked with a series of dark brown to blackish streaks, and the hindwing is light fuscous, with the fringe somewhat paler and with a darker basal band. *Eucosma argutipunctana* is best identified by its distinctive patterning and the presence of black scaling on the scape of the antenna.

DISTRIBUTION: Adults have been observed from central Texas eastward to Florida and northward to North Carolina. Scattered populations have also been found in other areas of the country, including southeastern Colorado, central Illinois, and southwestern Kansas (Wright and Gilligan, 2015). As of 2022, we have only two site records, with one from the Piedmont and the other from the Coastal Plain.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults mostly fly from August through early October, but specimens have also been collected in March, June, July, and December at the southernmost localities. As of 2022, our records are from early September to early October.

HABITAT: Most of the records for *E. argutipunctana* are from sandy habitats. Our very limited records include a coastal island and a site in the Piedmont near a lake margin.

FOOD: The host plants are undocumented.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR SU

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 rare in the state, but more information is needed on its habitat requirements, host plants, and distribution before we can assess its conservation status.