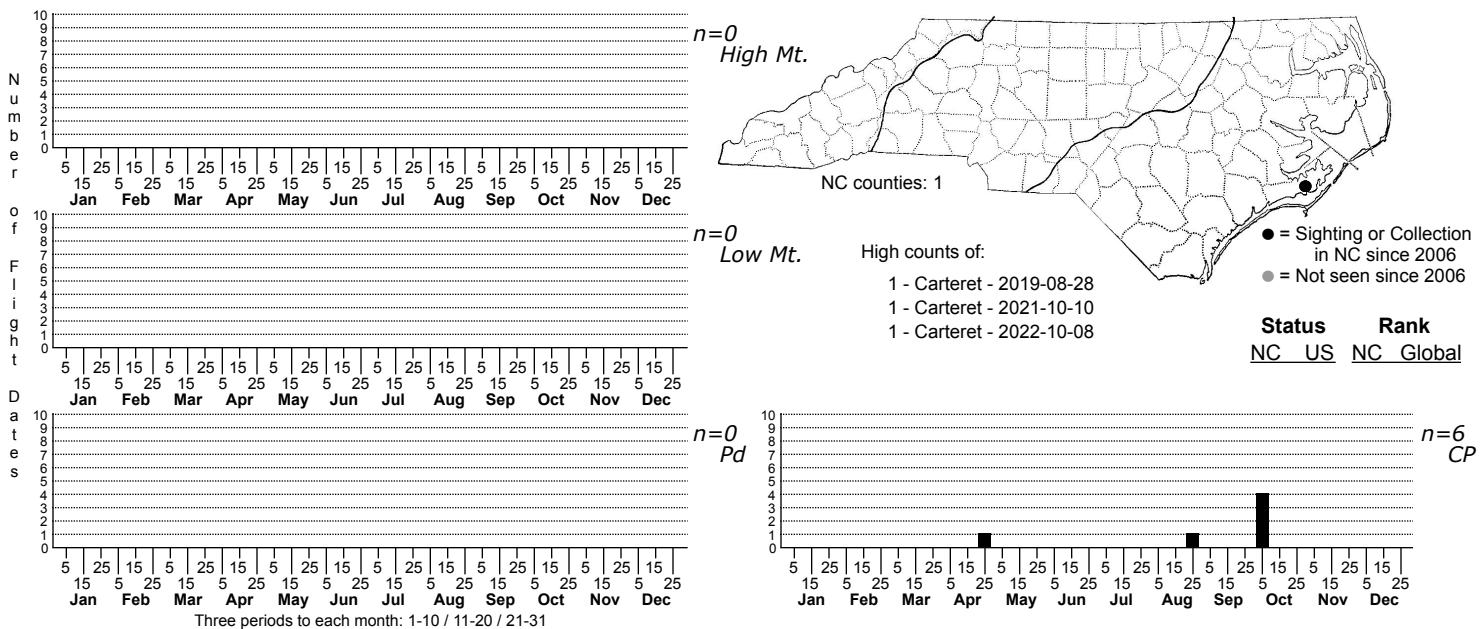


# *Eucosma alabamae* None



**FAMILY:** Tortricidae **SUBFAMILY:** Olethreutinae **TRIBE:** Eucosmini

**TAXONOMIC COMMENTS:** *Eucosma alabamae* 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 argutipunctana* 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 is based on the original description by Wright and Gilligan (2015) The frons, vertex, and antennae are white, and the labial palps are mostly white with some gray-brown speckling. The dorsal surface of the forewing is rusty brown with a variably expressed, white, subcostal band from the base to the apex that is interrupted near the mid-costa by a brown outwardly oblique bar that represents the median fascia. The white coloration often infiltrates the proximal half of the forewing and produces transverse reticulations. A sub-basal fascia is sometimes discernable as a slightly darker shade from the inner margin to the radius. The ocellus is conspicuous and has lustrous white bars at the proximal and distal margins, along with a pale central field that has up to three small black dashes. The costal strigulae are white and interspersed among thin black dashes. The termen has a salt and-pepper-colored band from the tornus to the apex, and the fringe is mostly white, but becomes blackish gray towards the apex. The hindwing is blackish gray, and the legs are mostly white with blackish-brown annulations on the tarsi. Wright and Gilligan (2015) noted that North Carolina specimens that they examined deviate from the description above in lacking the salt and-pepper-colored band on the termen and in being paler.

**DISTRIBUTION:** The known distribution appears to be highly fragmented, with specimens known from the Gulf Coast south of Mobile, Alabama, from Fort Macon State Park in Carteret Co., North Carolina, and from Worcester Co., Maryland.

**FLIGHT COMMENT:** Local populations are univoltine, with the adults flying in October in Alabama, and mostly in September and October farther north. As of 2022, we have records from late-August through early October.

**HABITAT:** Local populations are associated with dune and maritime grasslands/scrub communities on barrier islands.

**FOOD:** The host are undocumented.

**OBSERVATION METHODS:** The adults are attracted to lights.

**NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS:** [GNR] S1S3

**STATE PROTECTION:**

**COMMENTS:** This species appears to be rare throughout its range, although it can be locally abundant. The population on Atlantic Beach and in Fort Macon State Park is the only known one in North Carolina as of 2022.