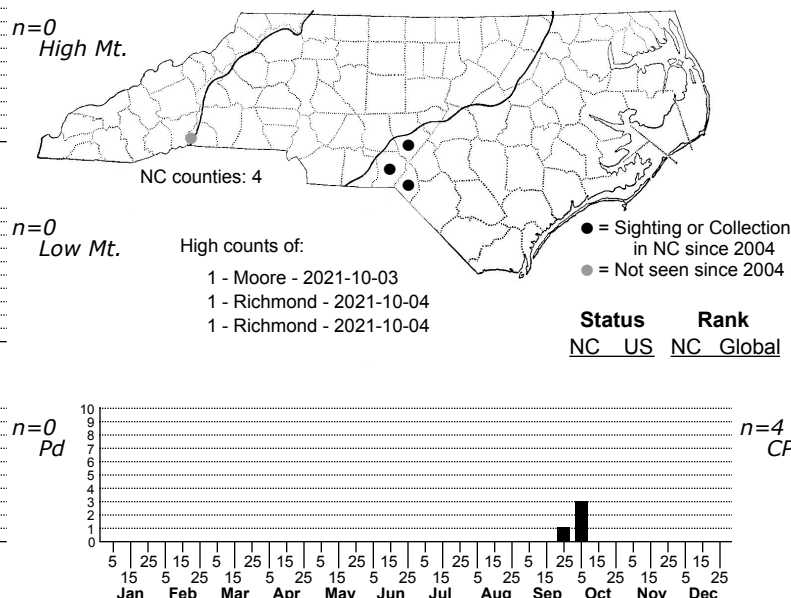


*Pelochrista adamantana* No common name



FAMILY: Tortricidae SUBFAMILY: Olethreutinae TRIBE: Eucosmini

TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS: *Pelochrista* is a large Holarctic genus of tortricids with around 75% of the 226 described species being native to North America (Wright and Gilligan, 2017). The highest species richness occurs in the western half of North America. The genus has a long and confusing taxonomic history, with many of the species formerly placed in the genus *Eucosma*. Gilligan et al. (2014) conducted a comprehensive phylogenetic analysis of *Pelochrista*, *Eucosma*, and related genera and redefined the genus *Eucosma* and *Pelochrista* based on differences in female genitalia. The great majority of *Pelochrista* species are known only from adults, which likely reflects the fact that the larvae of most species bore into stem bases and roots and are concealed from view. Members of the Asteraceae are the likely hosts for most species (Wright and Gilligan, 2017), but much work need to be done to identifying the hosts.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Wright and Gilligan (2017)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: This is a medium-sized *Pelochrista* with a distinctive patterning. The head, palps, antennae, thorax, and legs are a rich reddish-brown and are concolorous with an X-shaped mark on the forewing. The forewing is divided into four white patches by a reddish-brown X-shaped mark. The mark is comprised of a transverse band from the mid-costa to the tornus, along with a second band that extends from the inner margin at the base to the mid-wing, then diagonally from there to the apex (Wright and Gilligan, 2017). A thin line of reddish-brown is usually present along the termen and as a short streak along the costa at the wing base. The hindwing is light brown with a paler fringe.

DISTRIBUTION: *Pelochrista adamantana* is restricted to the eastern US, with the range extending from New Jersey southward along the Atlantic Coast states to central Florida and southeastern Alabama.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Local populations appear to be univoltine, with the adults flying from late-August through December. As of 2022, our very limited records are all from early October.

HABITAT: This species appears to prefer dry, sandy habitats. All but one of our records are from habitats in the Sandhills in communities with well-developed herbaceous ground cover.

FOOD: The hosts are undocumented.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S2-S3]

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 uncommon to rare throughout its range, as appears to be the case for North Carolina.