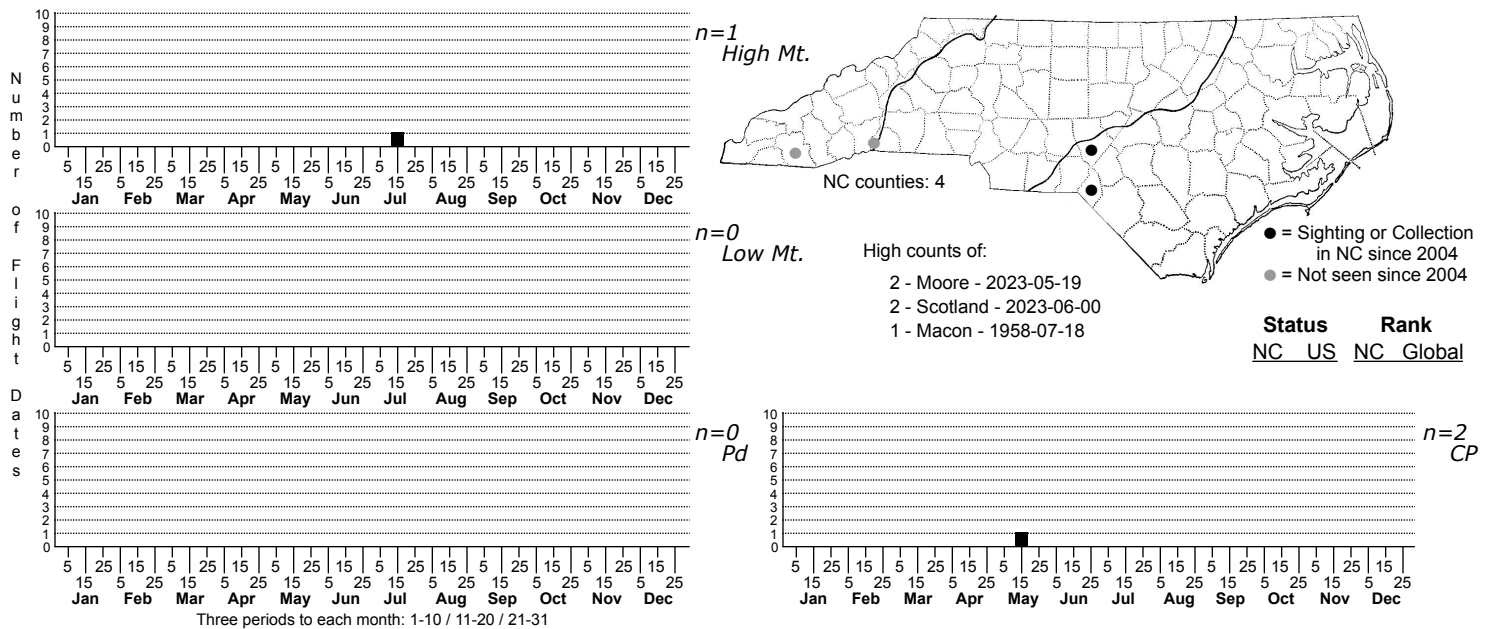


Pelochrista argentialbana No common name



FAMILY: Tortricidae SUBFAMILY: 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 species is wide-ranging across North America and geographically variable (Wright and Gilligan, 2017). In eastern populations the head, palps, and antennae are dull white to tannish-white and usually lighter than the ground of the forewing. The forewing ground color varies from white to pale yellowish orange and has varying levels of gray suffusion. A series of variable grayish brown to light orange brown lines and striations are present that can cover most to only the apical third of the wing. A series of marks and/or striae are present on the distal half of the costa that contribute to the overall striated appearance (illustrated in Wright and Gilligan, 2017). The wing lacks an ocellus and the termen has a narrow salt-and-pepper-colored band from the tornus to the apex. The hindwing varies from dull white to light grayish-brown and has a wide, pale fringe. This is the only member of the *agricolana* group that is in North Carolina and fresh specimens can usually be identified by external coloration and patterning. Some specimens may need to be verified by using genitalia.

DISTRIBUTION: *Pelochrista argentialbana* is broadly distributed across North America, including much of southern Canada from Quebec to British Columbia. The range extends southward in the western US to southern California, Arizona, and Colorado, and to western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee in the east.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been seen from March through September in different areas of the range, but mostly in June and July. As of 2022, our one dated record is from mid-July.

HABITAT: The preferred habitats are poorly documented for eastern populations.

FOOD: The host plants are poorly documented, but limited evidence suggests that composites may be the primary host. Individuals from one western population were reared on Common Wormwood (*Artemisia vulgaris*), while another listed larvae feeding on the roots of *Chrysanthemum* in Colorado.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS:

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: We have a very limited number of records and do not have sufficient information to assess the conservation status of this species within the state.