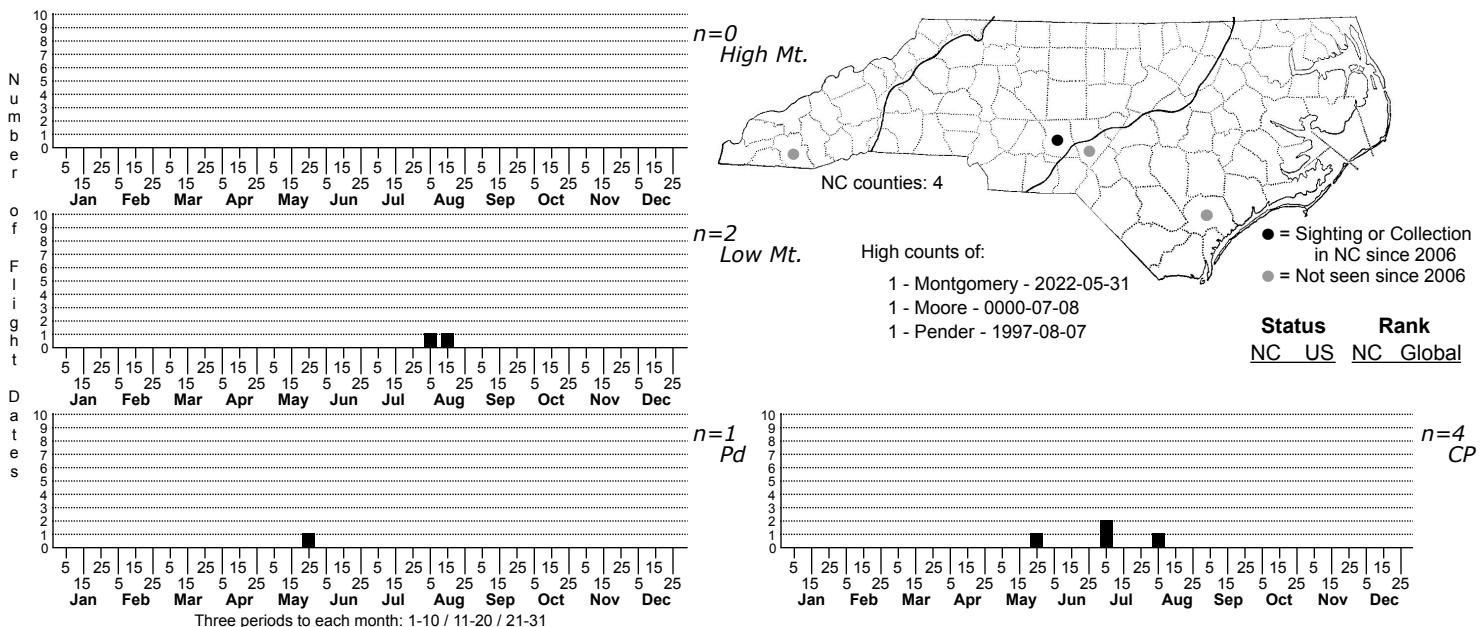


Pelochrista kimballi Kimball's Pelochrista



FAMILY: Tortricidae SUBFAMILY: Olethreutinae TRIBE: Eucosmini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: *< i>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 *< i>Eucosma*. Gilligan et al. (2014) conducted a comprehensive phylogenetic analysis of *< i>Pelochrista*, *< i>Eucosma*, and related genera and redefined the genus *< i>Eucosma* and *< i>Pelochrista* based on differences in female genitalia. The great majority of *< i>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. 6 described species are native to North America. The highest species richness occurs in the western half of North America.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Wright and Gilligan (2017)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: This species was recently described by Wright and Gilligan (2017) and the following description is from their work. The frons is tan and the vertex golden brown. The labial palp is whitish but shades to golden brown on the dorsal margin, with the third segment contrastingly darker brown. The antenna has a thin brown dorsal streak and whitish lateral scaling. The dorsal surface of the thorax is golden brown and the legs are tan to whitish with dark brown tarsal annulations. The forewing is golden brown with uniformly distributed small whitish spots that are variably edged with gray. The costa is marked from the base to the apex with short brown dashes and white strigulae. The ocellus is conspicuous and edged laterally with lustrous gray bars. The central field varies from white to pale golden brown and is crossed by two narrow black dashes. The termen has a narrow salt-and-pepper-colored band from the tornus to the apex, and the fringe is pale golden brown. The hindwing is brownish gray.

Wright and Gilligan (2017) noted that *< i>P. kimballi* is the smallest species in the *< i>albiguttana* group (mean FWL = 5.6 vs. 7.8-9.1 mm for other members) and usually can be distinguished from other group members by size alone. It also differs from other group members in various aspects of the genitalia tha are detailed by the authors.

DISTRIBUTION: Wright and Gilligan (2017) examined specimens that were from Maine, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Virginia and Mississippi.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Wright and Gilligan (2017) examined specimens that were collected from 18 May to 4 September, with most collected during July and August. As of 2022, our records are from late-May through mid-August.

HABITAT: Habitats in North Carolina include mesic, montane forests represented at the type locality at Highlands, mesic-dry hardwood forests in the Piedmont, and wet-mesic Longleaf Pine savannas in the Outer Coastal Plain.

FOOD: The host plants are unknown.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S2S3

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: