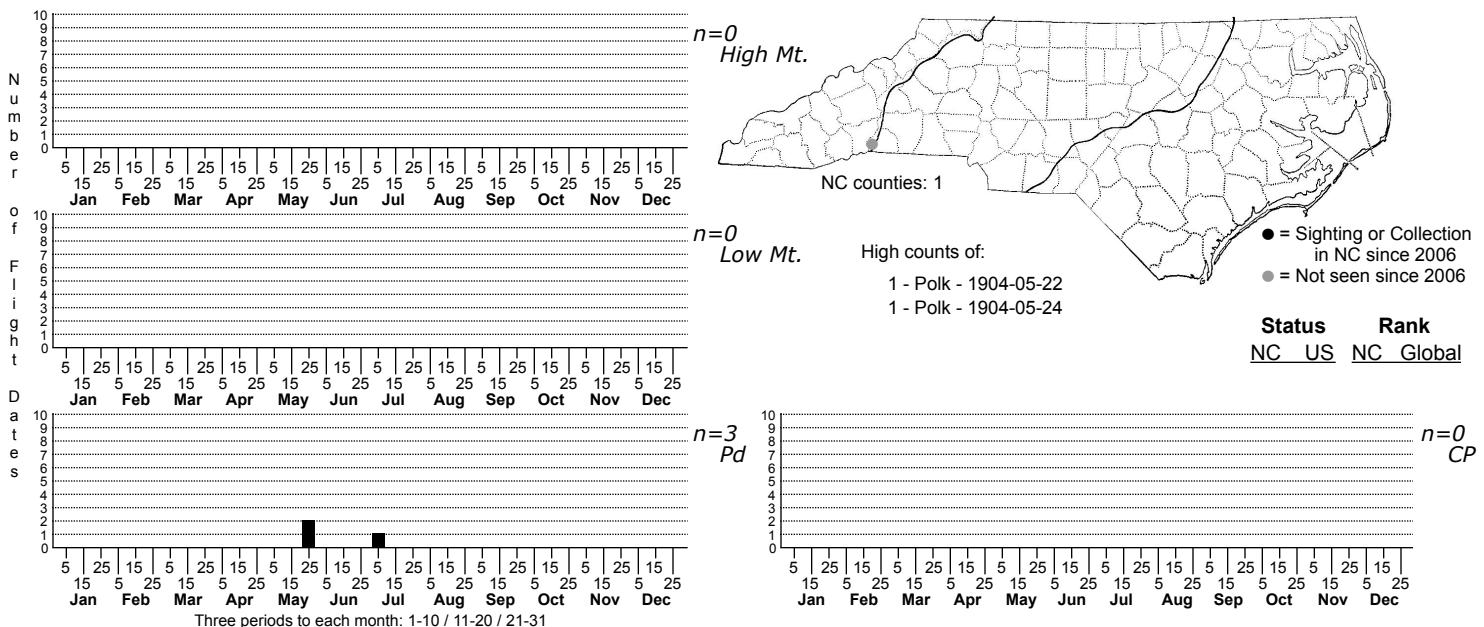


Pelochrista graciliana None



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: *Pelochrista graciliana* is externally similar to other members of the *albiguttana* group. In all members of this group the forewing varies from golden brown to brownish yellow and lacks fasciate markings. The wing has numerous, scatter whitish to grayish spots that are often margined to varying degrees with darker scales. The ocellus is conspicuous, is edged laterally by transverse metallic gray bars, and has a brownish central field that is crossed by two or three black longitudinal dashes (the third often greatly reduced). The costa has prominent whitish strigulae that are separated by short golden-brown to blackish dashes, and the termen has a narrow salt-and-pepper-colored band that extends from the tornus to the apex (Wright and Gilligan, 2017). Keartott (1905a) has a description based on four specimens that is generally consistent with the description above.

DISTRIBUTION: This species is only known from the vicinity of Tryon, North Carolina.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Kearfott (1905a) has records for 20 May, 22 May 22, 3 July and 24 July.

HABITAT: The preferred habitat is unknown.

FOOD: The host plants are undocumented.

OBSERVATION METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR SH

STATE PROTECTION: Has no legal protection, although permits are required to collect it on state parks and other public lands.

COMMENTS: This species was collected at Tryon in 1903 and 1904 and this remains the only known site where the species occurs. More information is needed on its taxonomic status, habitat requirements, and host plants before its conservation status can be accurately assessed.