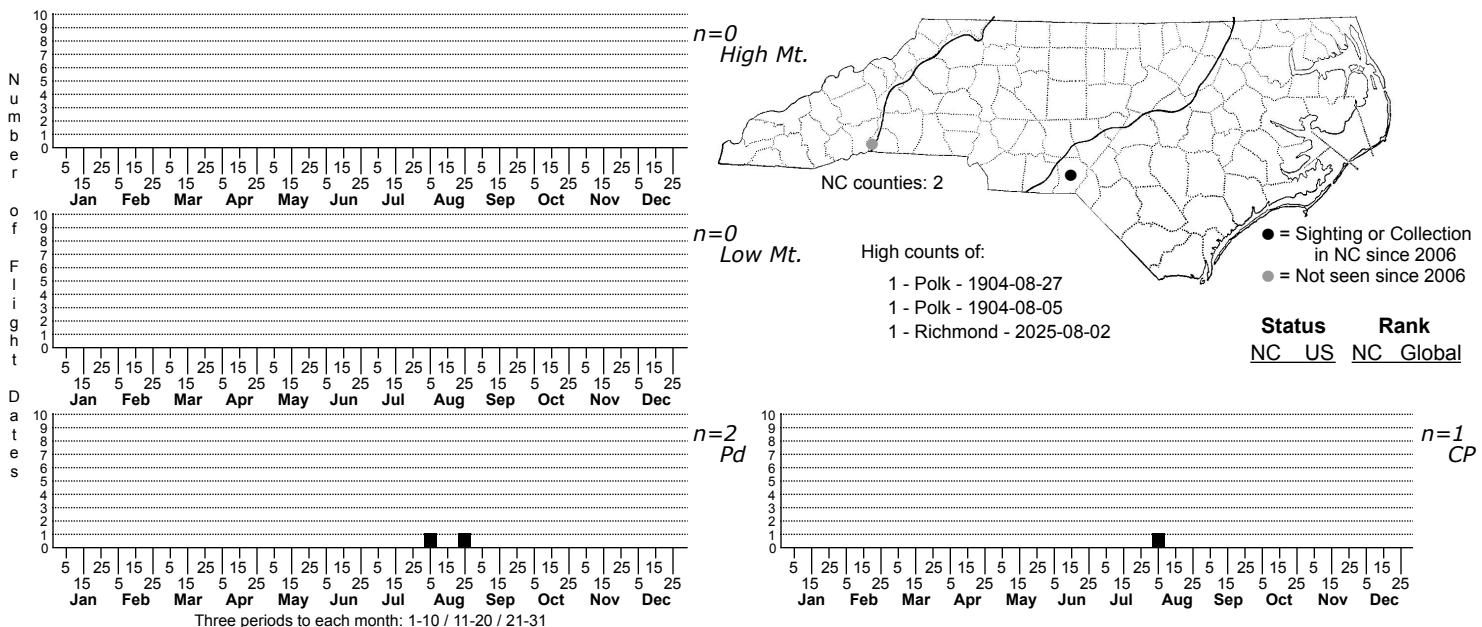


# *Eucosma giganteana* Giant Eucosma



## FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

### ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Riley (1881); Wright and Gilligan (2015)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Johnson et al. (2019)

**ID COMMENTS:** This species is easily recognized by its unique forewing color pattern. The following is based in part on the original description by Riley (1881). The head, palps and thorax are white and the antenna reddish brown. The ground of the forewing is white and is overlain with a large brown patch that cover much of the apical third of the wing except for the subcostal region. The patch enclosing the anal angle and a broad region surrounding the ocellus, which has two rows of blackish spots that are often masked by the dark ground color that is in between. The basal third of the wing has varying levels of pale fuscous to grayish mottling that is concentrated on the dorsal half, and the costal has a series of widely spaced dark spots along the entire length. The hindwing is brown with a whitish fringe, and the abdomen has alternating whitish and brown bands.

**DISTRIBUTION:** *Eucosma giganteana* is most common in prairie habitats. The range spans an area from Minnesota and Wisconsin southwestward to Kansas, Oklahoma, southeastern Colorado, eastern New Mexico, and much of Texas. It extends eastward in the north to southern Ontario, Ohio, western Pennsylvania and Kentucky, and along the Gulf Coast states to Florida, then northward to Georgia, South Carolina, and southern North Carolina. As of 2022, our only records are historical from Tryon in 1904.

**FLIGHT COMMENT:** The adults fly from April through September, with a seasonal peak in most areas of the range from June through August. As of 2022, our very limited records are all from August.

## HABITAT:

**FOOD:** The larvae are specialists on *Silphium* species, where they feed on the rhizomes or flower heads (Johnson et al., 2019; Vilela et al., 2020). The known hosts include Rosenweed (*S. integrifolium*), Common Cup-plant (*S. perfoliatum*), Slender Rosinweed (*S. radula* var. *gracile*), and Prairie Dock (*S. terebinthinaceum*). Johnson et al. (2019) noted that the larva do not bore into roots even though they have been widely reported to do so (e.g., Forbes 1923; Heinrich 1923; Gilligan et al. 2008). They are stem feeders that utilize the stout rhizomes rather than the thinner roots.

**OBSERVATION METHODS:** The adults are attracted to lights and can be found on the undersides of leaves during the mating season.

## 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 last documented in North Carolina in 1904 near Tryon.