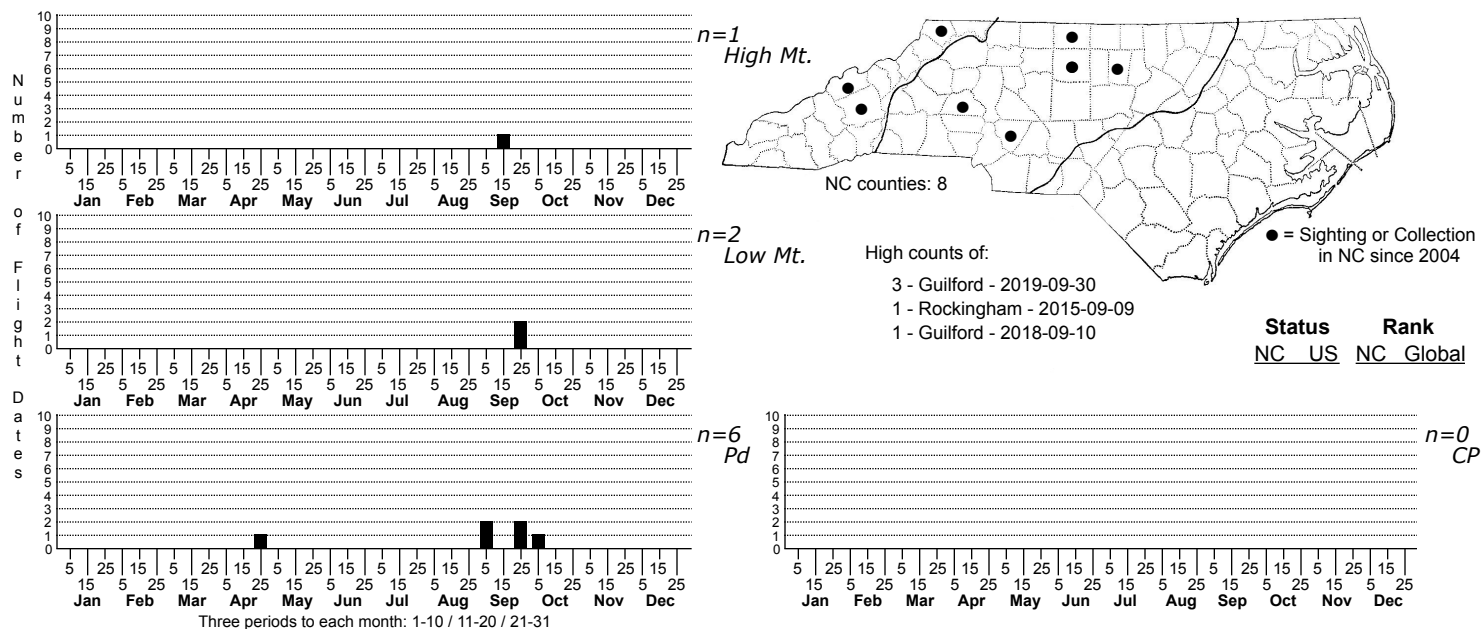


## *Pelochrista similiana* Similar Pelochrista



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: Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: Most features of *P. similiana* are identical to those of *P. dorsisignatana* except that the subbasal and median bands are connected versus being widely separated in *P. dorsisignatana*. The head, palps, antennae, and thorax are pale gray to reddish-brown and are concolorous with the forewing ground color, which is overlaid with fine brown to reddish-brown striations and reticulations. The forewing has a broad, curved, reddish brown to blackish brown band with a thin white margin in the middle of the wing. The band represents the sub-basal and median bands as seen in *P. dorsisignatana* that are joined. Most North Carolina specimens are the form *diffusana* (Wright, 2011) where the anterior half of the band is dark and the posterior half fades towards the costa. A dark spot with a white margin is sometimes present just before the tornus where the band is broken near its terminus. In addition to the broad band in the midwing, a much narrower and lighter postmedian band is usually present that begins at the tornus and slants inwardly towards the costa. The pale strigulae on the distal one-half of costa are either absent or faint, and are concolorous with the ground color. The ocellus is absent, and the termen has a narrow salt-and-pepper-colored band that extends from the tornus to the apex. The hindwing is light brown to brownish-gray with a slightly paler fringe.

DISTRIBUTION: *Pelochrista similiana* is largely restricted to eastern North America. It occurs in southern Canada from Prince Edward Island westward to Manitoba, with one isolated record from Alberta. In the US the range extends from the New England states westward to eastern North Dakota and eastern Nebraska, and southward to North Carolina, Tennessee, Arkansas and eastern Oklahoma. As of 2022, our records are all from the Piedmont and Blue Ridge.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Local populations appear to be univoltine. The adults have been found from July through October in different areas of the range, with a seasonal peak in August and September. As of 2022, our records are all from early September to early October, except for one unusual early season record from late April. The latter suggests that populations may produce a second brood on rare occasion.

HABITAT: Local populations are associated with goldenrod stands and are commonly found in partially shaded and open habitats where goldenrods prevail.

FOOD: Goldenrods (*Solidago* spp.) are the only known hosts (Wright, 2011).

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S3S5

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

COMMENTS: Populations appear to be secure, particularly given that early successional habitats that support goldenrods abound in the state.