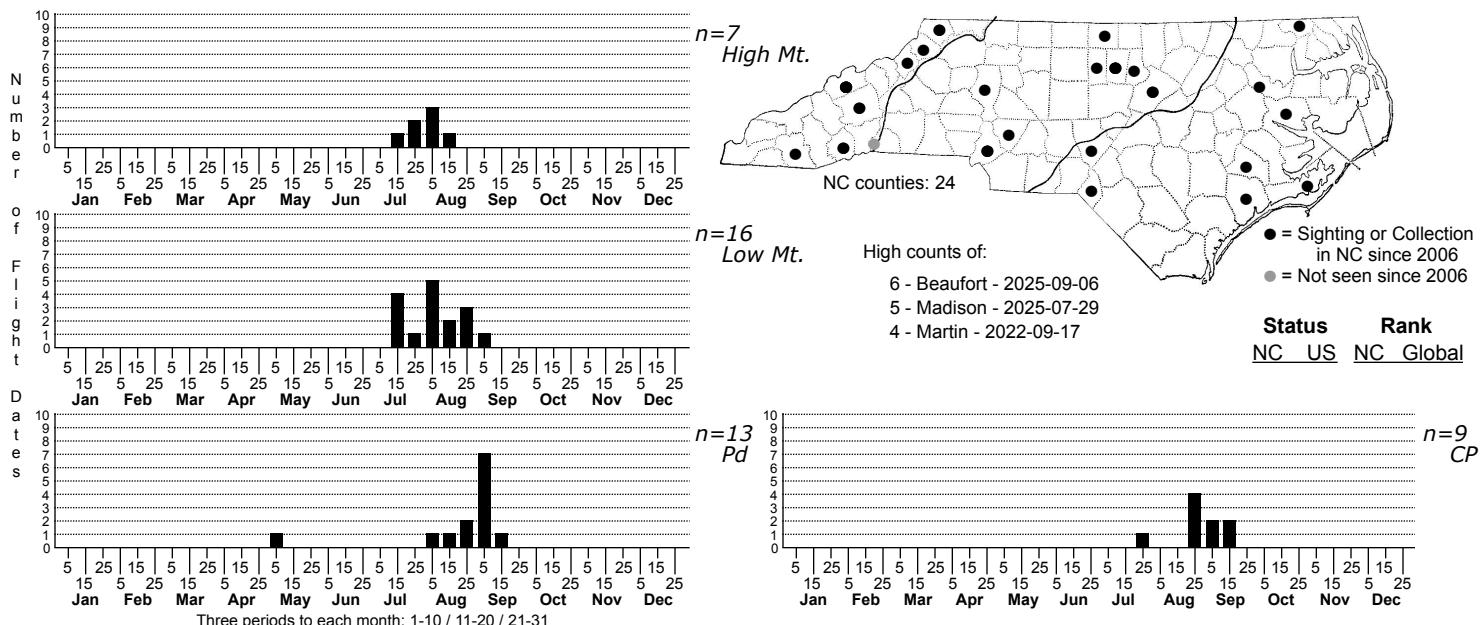


# *Pelochrista derelicta* Derelict Pelochrista



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.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Wright and Gilligan (2017)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The following description is based on those of Heinrich (1929) and Wright and Gilligan (2017). The head, palps, antennae and thorax vary from grayish-brown to tawny red. The forewing ground is more or less concolorous and is overlain with numerous fine, dark, wavy striations. The most conspicuous mark is a dark central fascia that extends from near the middle of the costa obliquely to the subtrinal region. The proximal margin is diffuse and the distal edge is marginated by a thin white line that tends to be weakly angulated towards the apex. A faint sub-basal patch is sometimes evident that extends obliquely outwardly from the inner margin and fades towards the costa. It sometimes extends to the base and forms a basal patch. The postmedian area immediately beyond the median fascia is generally paler than the anterior two-thirds of the wing and often shades to a tawny red or dark reddish brown color towards the apex. The ocellus is either poorly developed or absent, and the termen is edged by a dark line. The posterior half of the costa has a series of brown to reddish streaks that are interspersed with lighter strigulae. The hindwing is smoky fuscous with a paler fringe that has a dark basal line.

DISTRIBUTION: *< i>Pelochrista derelicta* has a broad range that covers most of southern Canada from British Columbia to Prince Edward Island. In the US specimens have been found throughout much of the central and eastern US to as far south as Florida and the Gulf of Mexico, and in the West in the Pacific Northwest, California, Colorado, and New Mexico. This species occurs statewide in North Carolina and is common in all three physiographic regions of the state.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Specimens have been observed from May through October in different areas of the range, with most adults flying in July and August. As of 2022, our records extend from early May through mid-September, with almost all from July-September.

HABITAT: Local populations are typically found where goldenrods are common. Adults in North Carolina can be found in open habitats such as old fields and pine savannas, as well as deciduous forests with woodland goldenrods.

FOOD: The only known hosts are goldenrods. Capek (1969) observed the larvae feeding on the lower shoots, roots, and emerging buds of both Canada Goldenrod (*< i>Solidago canadensis*) and Giant Goldenrod (*< i>Solidago gigantea*).

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights. More information is needed on host use in North Carolina.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S3S4

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

COMMENTS: This species is widely distributed throughout the state and appears to be secure.