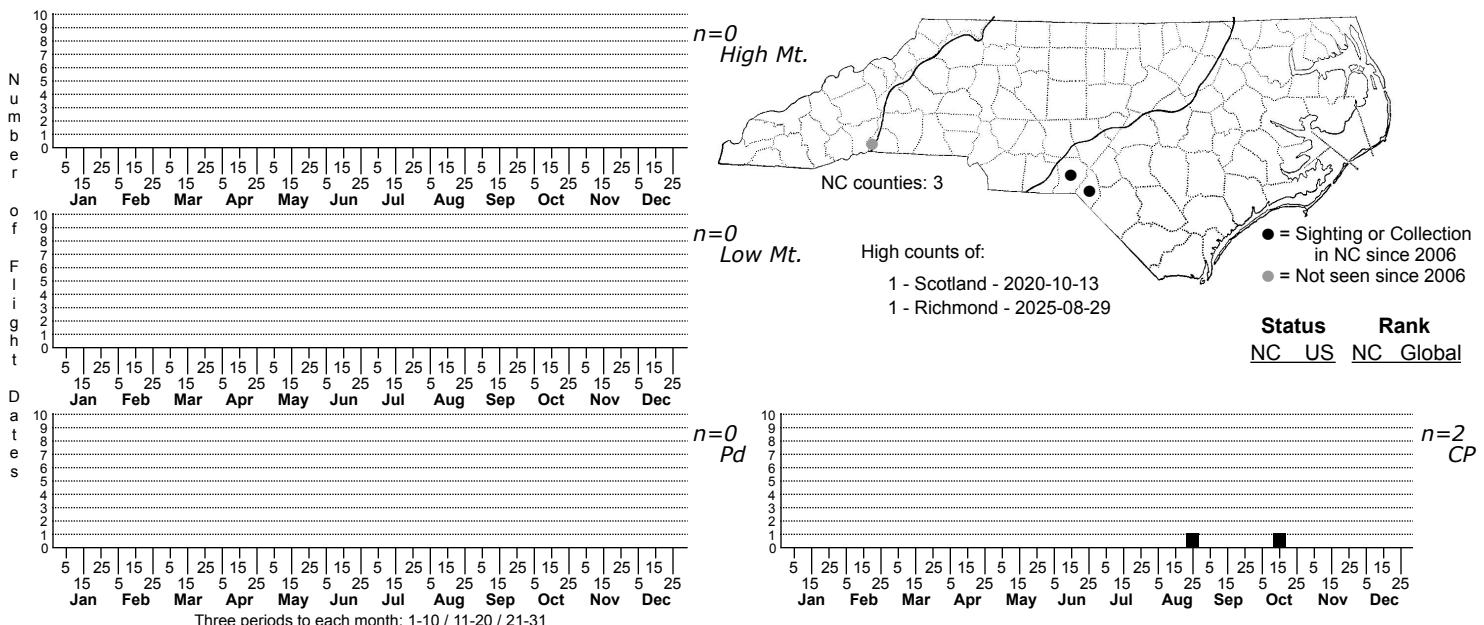


Pelochrista fiskeana None



FAMILY: Tortricidae SUBFAMILY: Olethreutinae TRIBE: Eucosmini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: <i>Pelochrista</i> 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</i>. Gilligan et al. (2014) conducted a comprehensive phylogenetic analysis of <i>Pelochrista</i>, <i>Eucosma</i>, and related genera and redefined the genus <i>Eucosma</i> and <i>Pelochrista</i> based on differences in female genitalia. The great majority of <i>Pelochrista</i> 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 (2015)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The following description is based on that of Wright (2015). The frons is pale tan and the vertex scales are brownish gray with tan tips. The medial surfaces of the first and second segments of the labial palp vary from tan to white, the lateral surfaces are brownish gray to blackish gray, and the third segment is blackish brown. The antenna is brown with a scape that has a blackish mark on the dorsal surface. The dorsal surface of the thorax is brown to dark grayish brown. The anterior surfaces of the foreleg and midleg are blackish brown, while the posterior surfaces are tan. The hindleg is largely tan. The foreleg and midleg have tan marks at the midtibia and the distal end of the tibia, and the tarsi have tan annulations.

The ground color of the forewing is light brown to blackish brown and is overlain with dark brown fasciae. They are thinly edged with white and usually contrast with the paler interfascial areas. A subbasal fascia is present that is chevron-shaped, nearly complete, and often weakly interrupted by paler scaling. The median fascia is complete and forms a wide band that is outwardly oblique from the mid-costa to the pre-tornal portion of the inner margin. A narrow postmedian band is also present that extends from the costa to the mid-termen and is often constricted or interrupted on the radius. The ocellus varies from being well-defined to obscure and has lustrous gray bars on the proximal, distal, and posterior margins. The central field of the ocellus is concolorous with the interfascial areas and crossed by up to four black dashes. The distal one-half of the costa has inconspicuous paired whitish strigulae and associated lustrous gray striae. The termen has a thin white line from M2 to the apex that is followed distally by a band of white-tipped, blackish-gray scales from the tornus to the apex. Both the fringe of the forewing and the entire hindwing are grayish brown.

DISTRIBUTION: Wright (2015) examined 80 specimens and documented a range from North Carolina, Ohio, and Illinois, south to Florida, Mississippi, and Texas.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Wright (2015) reported that the adults fly from mid-April (in Texas) to October (in Texas), with most collections occurring in June, July or August. Our only dated record is from mid-October.

HABITAT: Apart from an historic record from Tryon at the edge of the Blue Ridge, our records for this species come from the Fall-line Sandhills, including one from a sandhill seep and the other from a bean dip.

FOOD: The host plants are undocumented.

OBSERVATION METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR SNR [S1S3]

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

COMMENTS:

March 2026

The Moths of North Carolina - Early Draft