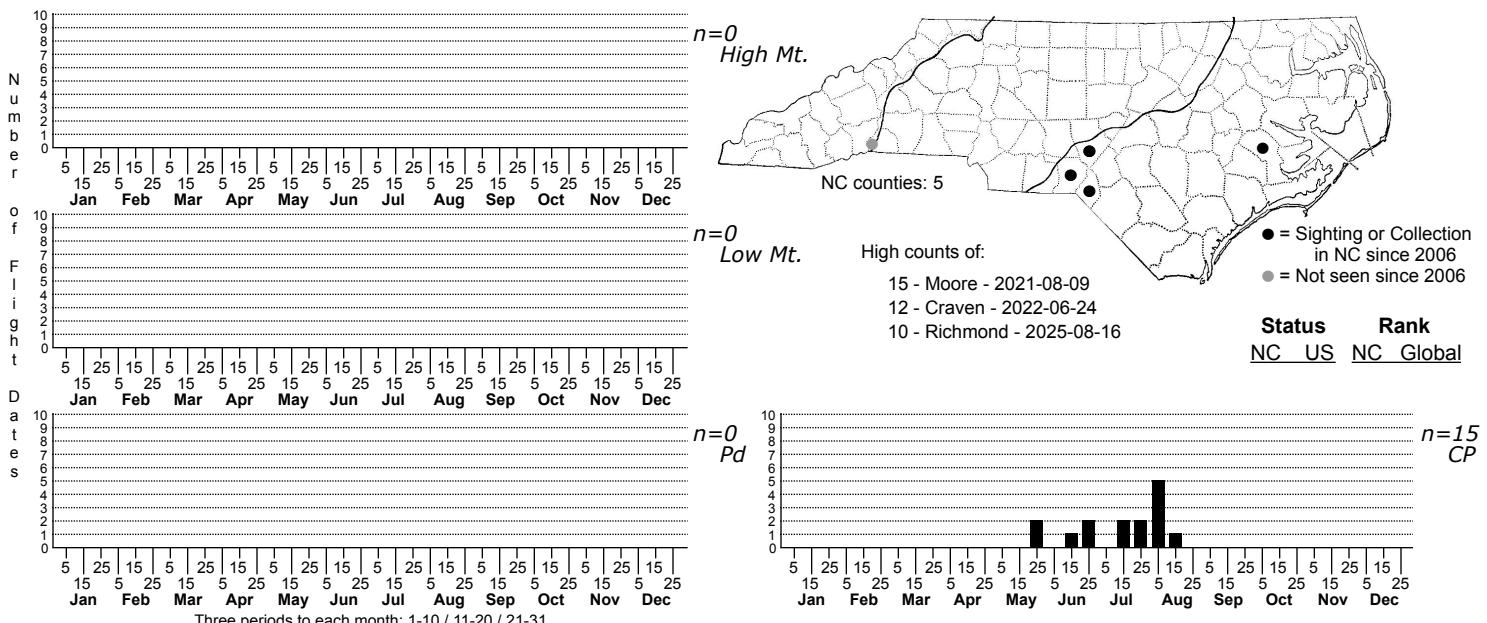


Pelochrista pallidipalpana None



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: Kearfott (1905a); Wright and Gilligan (2017)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: This is a small, broad-winged species of *<|>Pelochrista</i>* with a distinctive forewing patterning that has brownish-gold to pale fawn interfacial areas and dark brown markings (Kearfott, 1905a; Wright and Gilligan, 2017). The head has long loose scales in the front and on top that are pale ocherish at the base and pure white at the tips. The second joint of the labial palp has long loose white scales that conceal the third segment and that are shaded basally and outwardly with pale ocherish (Kearfott, 1905a).

The wing has a light brownish-golden or pale fawn ground that is broken into large irregular patches by narrower dark brown markings. The dark markings tend to form a broadly reticulate pattern across the wing, with some individuals having narrow irregular sub-basal and median bands of sorts that are connected by two longitudinal streaks. They sometimes have a faint whitish incomplete margin. The ocellus is well defined, with metallic gray bars on the lateral margins and three black dashes crossing a golden central field (Wright and Gilligan, 2017). The termen and fringe has a salt-and-pepper-colored band from the tornus to the apex, and the costa has a series of conspicuous white strigulae that are delimited by short blackish-brown dashes. The hindwing is brown with paler cilia and the tarsi are annulated with light brown.

DISTRIBUTION: *Pelochrista pallidipalpana* has been found at scattered localities from Connecticut to Wisconsin, Iowa and eastern Nebraska to as far south as North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. Populations appears to be localized and absent from many portions of general range (Wright and Gilligan, 2017). As of 2022, we have records from the Piedmont (Polk Co.) and the Coastal Plain, with several records from the Sandhills.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Local populations appear to be uivoltine, with records extending from June through August. Wright and Gilligan (2017) reported capture dates that ranged from 25 June to 8 August for specimens that they identified. As of 2022, our records are from late June and early August.

HABITAT: Our records come from open woodlands. One record is from a stand of dry-xeric scrub oaks but the other three are from wetter sites, including a sandhill seep, a streamhead peatland with White Cedars, and a wet Longleaf Pine savanna. One historic record comes from an unknown habitat in the vicinity of Tryon at the edge of the Blue Ridge Escarpment.

FOOD: The host plants are unknown.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNP S2S3

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

COMMENTS.