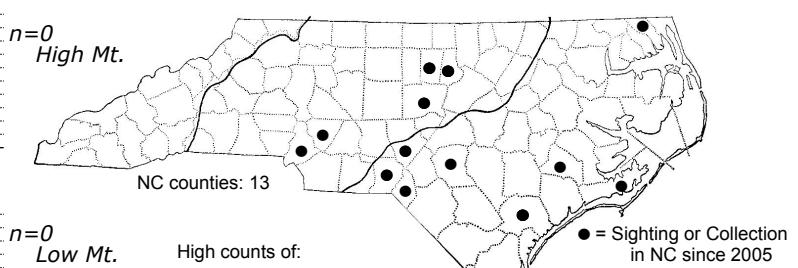
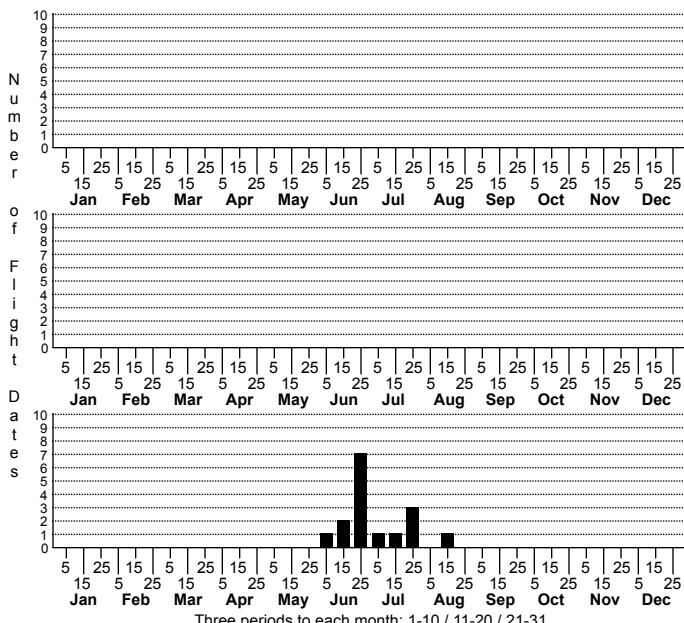


# *Epiblema abruptana* Abrupt Epiblema



High counts of:  
 6 - Pender - 2024-05-05  
 4 - Durham - 2022-06-30  
 3 - Pender - 2025-04-29

FAMILY: Tortricidae SUBFAMILY: Olethreutinae TRIBE: Eucosmini  
 TAXONOMIC COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Wright and Gilligan, 2023).

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The following is based in part on the descriptions by Walsingham (1879) and Wright and Gilligan (2023). The head is ocherous (brownish-yellow to yellowish-orange) and is often thickly tufted above. The palps are ocherous and tipped with dark brown or black, but are short and blunt with the dark apical joint scarcely exposed and often not visible from above, or only weakly so. The antenna is brown with a faint black spot at the base. The forewing is variable in coloration and patterning, but is generally grayish-brown with variably expressed orangish-brown blotches and black markings. The fasciated markings are also variable in their expression. The basal fascia is represented as a thin obscure line from the inner margin to about two-thirds inward. An orangish-brown, quadrate, sub-basal fascia is often evident that is variably accentuated with black, especially on the lateral margins. A fragmented median fascia may also be present that is comprised of a narrow mid-costal bar. A vaguely defined discal mark and a weakly defined pretornal mark are also often evident. There usually is a prominent but somewhat diffuse post-median fascia in front of the ocellus. The interfacial spot is usually somewhat paler than the prevailing ground color and is frequently suffused with orange, but may be concolorous with the surrounding ground. The ocellus has a whitish central field with varying amounts of light ocherous or dull orangish shading that tends to give it a dull white appearance. It has a diffuse dark brown to blackish dot or short dash in the middle. The white costal strigulae are usually well expressed, with the last two enlarged to form a white, triangular mark that is bisected with a dark line. The grayish striae in the subcostal area near the apex often have orangish-brown lines between them, while the hindwing and cilia are dull brown.

*< i>Epiblema abruptana</i>* is similar to *< i>E. strenuana</i>*, but the latter lacks palps with dark tips, and the white, paired, costal strigulae on the distal one-half of the forewing are poorly developed. The overall coloration of *< i>E. strenuana</i>* tends to be uniformly brown versus a more mottled appearance with orangish-brown blotches and black markings on *< i>E. abruptana</i>*. *< i>Epiblema abruptana</i>* is also similar to *< i>Eucosma aquilana</i>* in having a palp with a dark tip, but the former has a relatively short palp, with the black tip often not visible from above or only weakly so. In addition, the forewing of *< i>Eucosma aquilana</i>* is mostly uniformly brown with the fasciate markings and interfacial spot barely discernible. For many specimens the genitalia may need to be examined.

DISTRIBUTION: *< i>Epiblema abruptana</i>* is primarily confined to the midwestern and eastern U.S from New Jersey and Pennsylvania westward to Wisconsin, Iowa, and Nebraska, and southward to Texas, the Gulf Coast states, and southern Florida. There is one record from Alberta, and others from Maine that have not been verified (Wright and Gilligan, 2023). As of 2024, all of our records are from the eastern Piedmont and Coastal Plain.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been observed from March through December in Florida, and from April through October in other areas of the range, with a seasonal peak typically from June through August. As of 2024, our records range from late-May through mid-August.

HABITAT: The adults have been found in a variety of habitats in North Carolina that range from spoils and dunes along the coast to bottomland sites in the Piedmont.

FOOD: The hosts are apparently undocumented, but are presumed to be members of the Asteraceae, as is the case for other members of this genus.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

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: