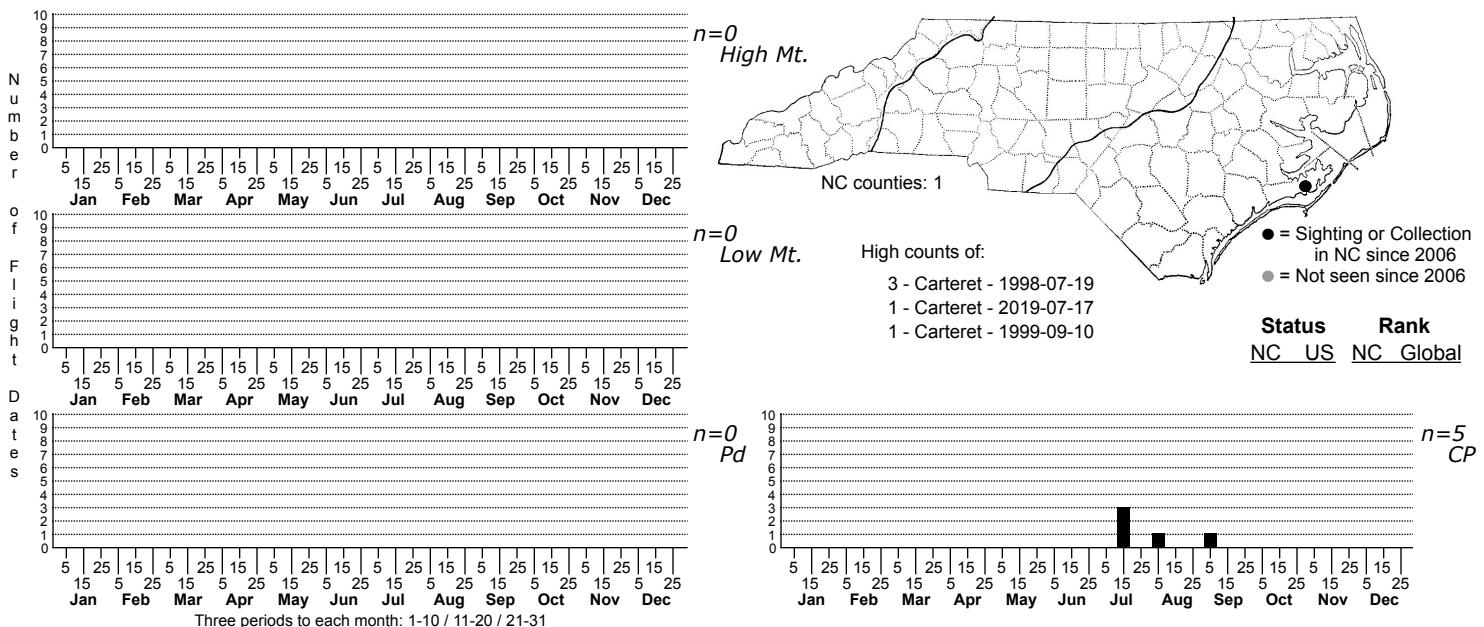


# *Epiblema adusta* None



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 description is based on that of Wright and Gilligan (2023). The labial palp has the medial surface white and the lateral surfaces pale tan. The frons is whitish, the vertex is tan, and the antenna is brown above. The thorax is pale brown and the forewing is medium brown with extensive blackish-brown suffusion. A blackish-brown line extends from the wing base through the center of the wing before bending at around one-half the wing length to the tornus. The interfascial spot is tan and usually extends from the inner margin to the blackish-brown line that runs from the base to the tornus. It is sometimes only weakly discernable. The sub-basal fascia is either obscure or missing, and the median fascia is represented by a blackish-brown, quadrate, pretornal mark. The postmedian fascia is dark brown, thin, and often interrupted near the costa. The ocellus is pinkish and usually has a brown longitudinal central dash and a black spot at the anterior extremity. The costal strigulae are white, with their expression often subdued, and separated by thin brown lines that extend towards the termen. The fringe is pale brown, and the hindwing is brownish-gray with a pale fringe. According to Wright and Gilligan (2023), *Epiblema adusta* is the smallest member of the *strenuana* group (mean forewing length = 5.3 mm versus 5.5-7.1 mm for other group members) and is the only member that has a medium brown forewing.

DISTRIBUTION: *Epiblema adusta* is found in coastal habitats in the southeastern U.S. Wright and Gilligan (2023) identified specimens from Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and North Carolina. As of 2023, our records are all from coastal communities in Carteret County.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been found from March through September, with North Carolina records extending from mid-July through early September.

HABITAT: The adults have been found in coastal dunes, savannas and prairies.

FOOD: The host plants are undocumented.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S1S2]

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: This recently described species appears to be rare both in North Carolina and throughout its range.