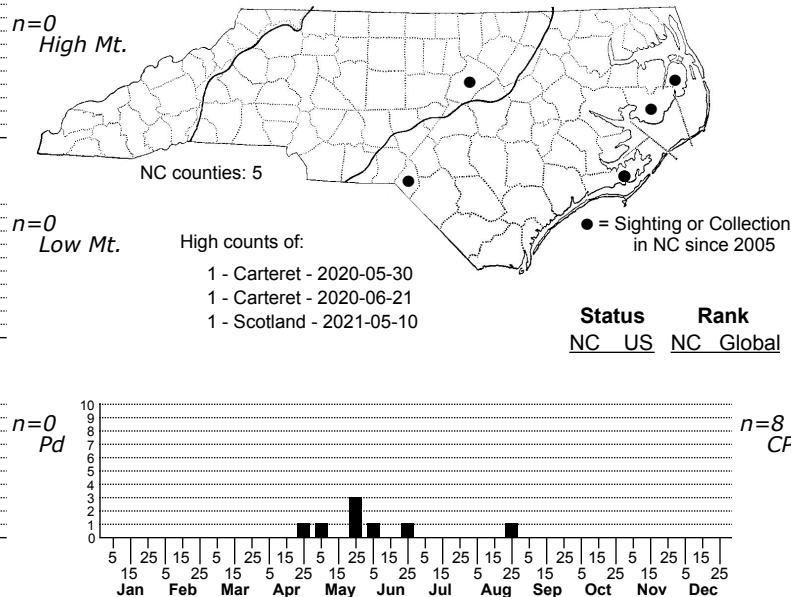


# Epiblema discretivana Discriminating Epiblema



FAMILY: Tortricidae SUBFAMILY: Olethreutinae TRIBE: Eucosmini  
TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Heinrich (1921); Wright and Gilligan (2023).

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Miller (1976).

ID COMMENTS: The following description mostly is based on those of Heinrich (1921) and Wright and Gilligan (2023). This is a medium-sized *Epiblema* with a moderately broad forewing. The antennae, palps, face, and head vary from dull fuscous to ashy fuscous. The thorax is dull fuscous, while the forewing ground color is a dirty grayish white with darker markings. An outwardly angulated basal patch covers the basal third of the wing and varies from dark gray to grayish-fuscous. It is followed by a grayish white medial band that has gray transverse reticulations. Following this is a vaguely defined blackish-gray pretornal mark. The ocellus is grayish-white and has gray lateral bands, while the termen has a dark gray or fuscous band that extends from the tornus to the apex. The hindwing is smoky fuscous and the fringe is grayish white with a dull fuscous band along its base.

*Eucosma discretivana* most closely resembles *E. obfusca*, but the latter has the face, head, thorax, and base of antennae covered with inky blue-black scales. In addition, the dark margin of the termen of *E. obfusca* is bluish-black and only extends from the apex to a little over one-half the length of the termen. In *E. discretivana* there is none of the bluish-black scaling that is so noticeable in *E. obfusca* and the entire length of the termen is faintly dark margined. *Eucosma discretivana* also resembles *E. desertana*, but the latter has bluish-black scaling that is similar to that of *E. obfusca*.

DISTRIBUTION: *Epiblema discretivana* is found in coastal habitats from southern Texas eastward across the Gulf Coast to Florida, and northward along the Atlantic Coast to Rhode Island (Wright and Gilligan, 2023). As of 2024, all of our records are from the Coastal Plain, with the exception of one larval record from the eastern Piedmont.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Wright and Gilligan (2023) reported flight dates that ranged from mid-March to the end of the July, with one record from south Texas dated 3 October. Populations in North Carolina are univoltine. As of 2024, our records range from late-April through late-June.

HABITAT: Local populations are commonly found where Groundsel-tree, which is the primary host, grows locally. This species is commonly found around the margins of maritime wetlands, but has rapidly expanded its range westward in North Carolina where it grows in disturbed sites such as damp roadsides, ditches and weedy fields.

FOOD: Miller (1976) reared adults mostly from Groundsel-tree (*Baccharis halimifolia*), but also from Saltwater False-willow (*B. angustifolia*) and Silverling (*B. glomeruliflora*). In North Carolina, galls have been observed on Groundsel-tree.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights, and the elongated galls can be found on the stems of *Baccharis*.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR[S2S3]

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

COMMENTS: This species appears to be uncommon in North Carolina, with only five site records as of 2024. More information is needed on its habitat requirements and distribution and abundance before we can accurately assess its conservation status within the state.