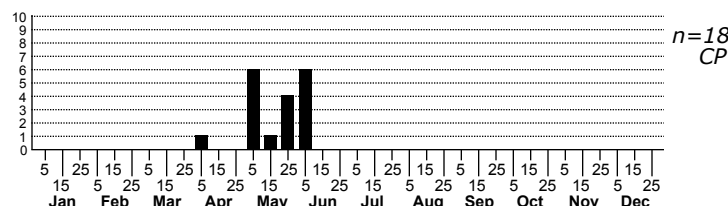
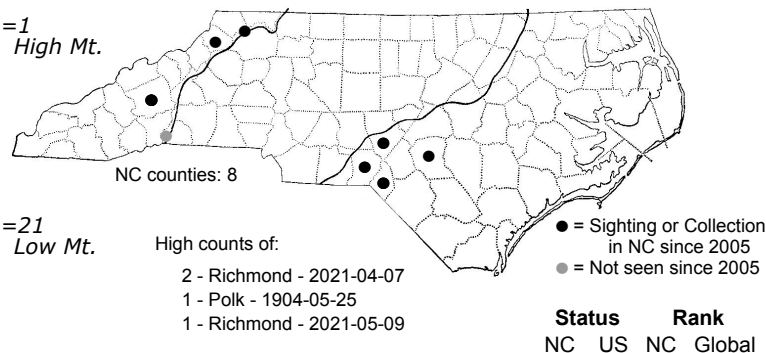
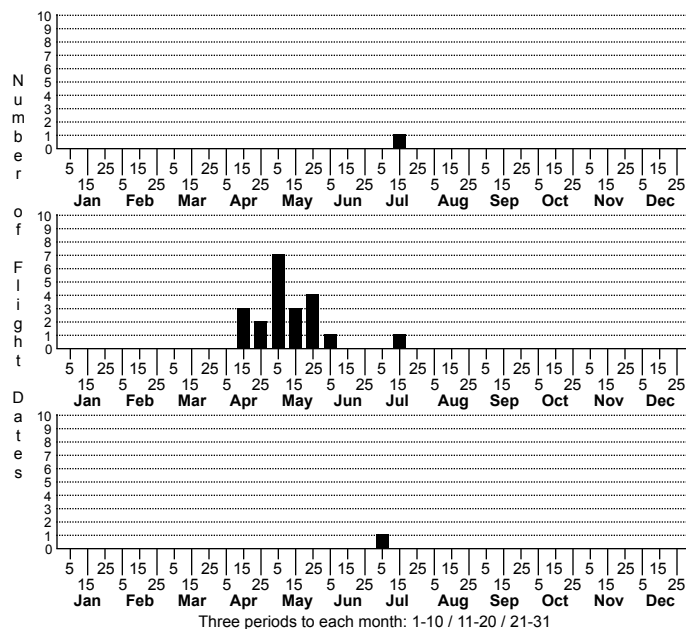


Epiblema infelix None



FAMILY: Tortricidae SUBFAMILY: Olethreutinae TRIBE: Eucosmini
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Wright (2002); Wright and Gilligan (2023).

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The following description is mostly based on that of Wright (2002) and Wright and Gilligan (2023). In this species the palps, head, thorax and antennae are brown. The predominant hue of the forewing can vary from dark grayish-brown to brown. A blackish gray to dark brown basal patch covers the basal fourth to third of the wing, and is followed by a white median spot that is roughly triangular and has one or two short fuscous dashes on the inner margin. The median spot extends from the inner margin to approximately two-thirds the distance to the costa where it is replaced by a contrasting region of dark scales that are concolorous with the basal patch. Its sharply defined basal edge angles obliquely outward from the dorsal margin and often contains a small, basally directed, triangular projection just forward of the inner margin. The distal edge is less well defined and fades into an area beyond the spot that is mostly brown with a few blackish marks in the pretornal area. The apical two-fifths of the costa has four pairs of whitish strigulae that are separated by reddish-brown marks and their associated gray stria. The termen has a narrow reddish-brown band that extends from the apex to the distal margin of the ocellus. The ocellus is light brown with three or four blackish dashes and is surrounded by a zone of grayish scales on the proximal, distal and tornal margins. The male costal fold extends from the wing base to the middle of the wing.

Epiblema infelix is similar to *E. gibsoni*, but the latter is predominantly brown and has a narrow, bright white, and sharply-edged median spot. In addition, the reddish-brown coloration that occurs between the white costal strigulae and along the termen of *E. infelix* are missing on *E. gibsoni* (Wright and Gilligan, 2023).

DISTRIBUTION: The range of *Epiblema infelix* is poorly documented, but scattered populations have been found throughout much of the eastern U.S. Wright (2002) identified specimens from Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia. As of 2024, we have one record from the Piedmont and all others from either the Sandhills or lower-elevation sites in the Blue Ridge.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Wright (2002) reported that the adults fly from early April to early July in different areas of the range, with a seasonal peak from mid-April to mid-June. As of 2023, our records range from early-April through mid-July, with a seasonal peak in April and May.

HABITAT: Most of our records are from fire-maintained communities in the Sandhills that have a well-developed ground cover of forbs. Records from the mountains are from lower-elevation sites with a mixture of forests, fields and disturbed habitats such as roadways.

FOOD: The hosts are apparently undocumented, but are presumed to be members of the Asteraceae.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

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 throughout its range, with the Sandhills supporting the most robust populations in the state.