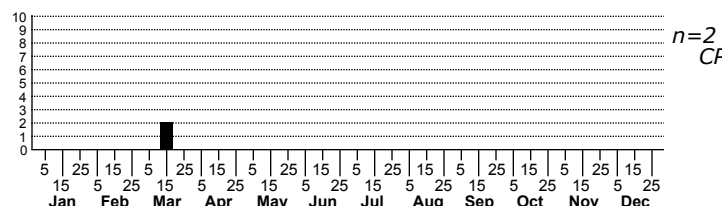
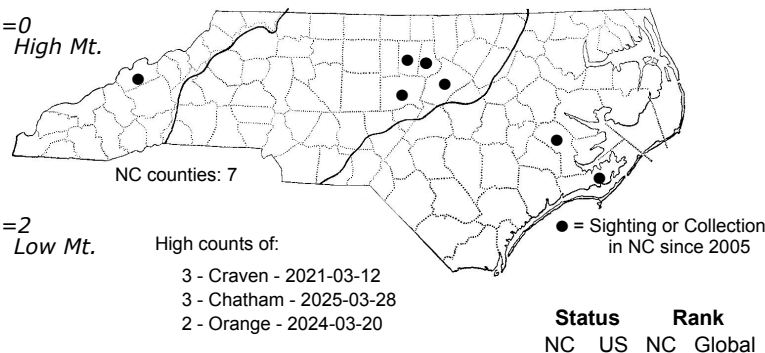
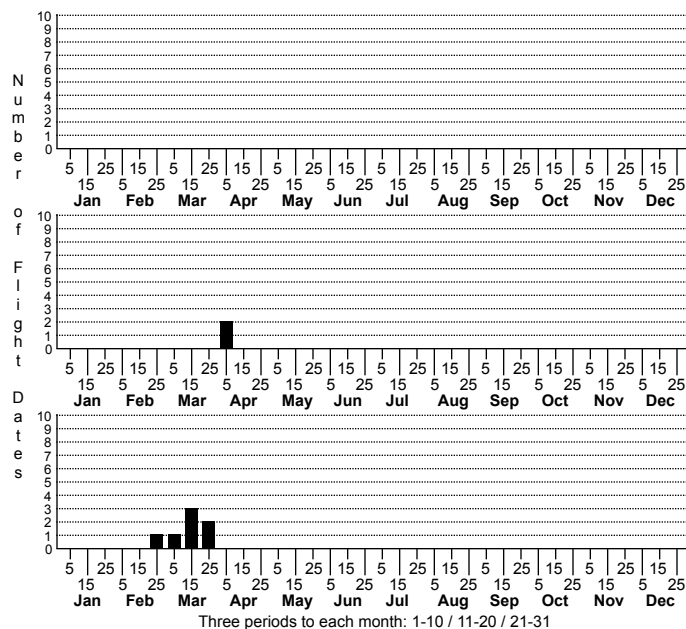


# *Pseudexentera haracana* None



FAMILY: Tortricidae SUBFAMILY: Olethreutinae TRIBE: Eucosmini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: The genus *Pseudexentera* currently has 19 recognized species that are found primarily in North and Central America, with 17 recognized species in the US. They are typically found in forested settings and most fly very early in the year. Many are challenging to identify, particularly the species with fasciate forewing patterns that often show substantial intraspecific variation in patterning and have slight differences in genitalia (Miller, 1968; Gilligan et al., 2008). There has been a long history of misidentified species in the group (Miller, 1968) and there is still much confusion about external traits that are useful in sorting out certain closely related forms. DNA barcoding has not proven to be particularly useful in sorting out species since recognized species often have two or more BINS that contain multiple species names. This likely reflects weak genetic differentiation between certain forms and the large numbers of misidentified specimens in collections. Miller (1968) conducted a taxonomic revision and reviewed all of the recognized species in North America, but did not provide detailed descriptions of external coloration, patterning, or intraspecific variation within species. Here, we treat our assignment of the fasciate specimens to species as provisional since they are based on images or pinned specimens that have not been barcoded or dissected to examine genitalia. Even with the latter, specimens cannot always be confidently assigned to species.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The head, palps, antenna, and thorax vary from medium brown to blackish-brown. The forewing has a light brown ground color that is overlain with a dark basal patch that covers a third or more of the forewing. The patch tends to be darkest on the dorsal half and is outwardly angled near the middle. A smaller dark dorsal patch is also usually evident before the tornus at around two-thirds that extends nearly to the middle of the wing where it may sometimes join or nearly join the dark line that extends from the apex (see below). Both the large, dark basal patch and the smaller post-median dark patch are usually bordered outwardly with a narrow white line of scales.

The most distinctive mark is a dark and somewhat wavy line that begins at the apex and angles gradually away from the costa to the middle of the wing where is often joins an oblique dark line that extends from the costa inward. When joined, the overall effects is a line that angles to the center then curves abruptly towards the costa. The costa has a series of whitish streaks (striae) that are interspersed with dark ones, while the sub-costal area tends to have tan to fuscous-olive shading that is lighter than the remainder of the wing. The hindwing is light brown and the tarsi have dark-brown to blackish bands.

*Pseudexentera haracana* superficially resembles *Gretchena delicatana*, but the latter has a light, angulating band on the dorsal margin and a basal patch that is elongated and often connected to, or nearly connected to, a dark line that extends from the apex to the center of the wing.

DISTRIBUTION: *Pseudexentera haracana* is found in eastern North America. Individuals have been documented from Maine and adjoining areas of southern Canada (Nova Scotia; Quebec; Ontario) southward to as far as Florida in the east and eastern Texas in the west. The range extends westward through the Great Lakes region to Minnesota, and to Missouri, eastern Oklahoma, and eastern Texas. Miller (1986) identified adults from Nova Scotia, Connecticut, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Missouri, Texas, Mississippi and Florida. As of 2024 we have a small number of records from the coast, the eastern Piedmont, and a lower elevation site in the Blue Ridge.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Local populations are univoltine, with the adults flying early in the year during the spring warm-up. Miller (1986) reported capture dates that ranged from 26 February to 15 June in different areas of the range. The seasonal peak in activity is typically in March and April. As of 2024, our limited records extend from late February through early April.

HABITAT: Local populations are found in hardwood or mixed hardwood forests with chestnuts and oaks. They also occur in residential neighborhoods where the host plants are present.

FOOD: The larvae feed on members of the Fagaceae, including chestnuts (*Castanea* spp.) and oaks (Miller, 1986; Brown et al., 2008). The specific species of oaks reportedly used include Scarlet Oak (*Quercus coccinea*) and Northern Red Oak (*Q. rubra*) (Wagner et al., 1995a; Robinson et al., 2010).

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults occasionally visit light during March and April.

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: This species appears to be uncommon in North Carolina, but we currently do not have sufficient data on habitat requirements, host use, and abundance to accurately assess its conservation status within the state.