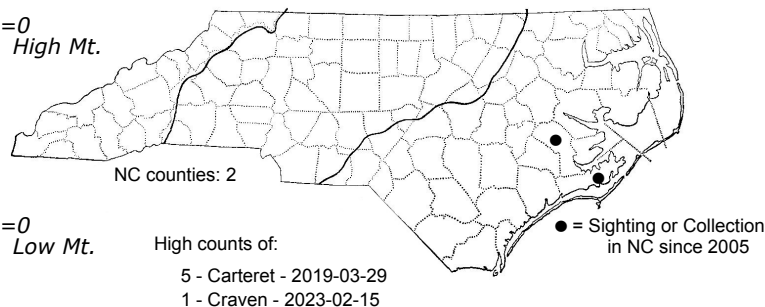
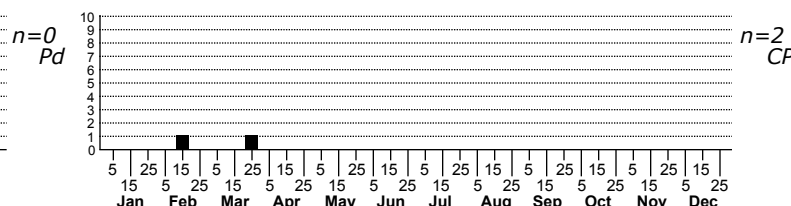


Pseudexentera vaccinii None



Status	Rank
NC US	NC Global



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 following is based in part on the original description by Miller (1986). The thorax, the outer portion of the palps, and the front and crown of the head are all brownish white, as is the outer portions of the labial palp. Although Miller (1986) described this species, he did not provide descriptions of the wing patterning other than noting that the upperside dark markings vary from tawny to fuscous. Specimens that have since been identified by genitalia or barcoding are variable in patterning and appear to occur as two forms. This conflicts with Miller's statement that forewing patterning varies little between or within sexes. One morph has a grayish ground color with a relatively small brownish dorsal patch at about one-third that begins on the dorsal margin and extends obliquely before stopping near the middle of the wing. A post-median patch of similar color is also present at about three-fourths that begins on the inner margin and extends just a short way onto the wing, ending well before the middle. A second form has a dull grayish ground and a much more extensive area of dark shading in the basal third that tends to form a basal patch with the dorsal half darker than the costal half. The posterior margin is angled outwardly near the middle of the wing to form a blunt tooth-like projection. This species is best identified by using a combination of external patterning, genitalia and/or molecular markings, or by rearing individuals from blueberries. Miller (1986) noted that the tarsi of all legs are banded and the hindwing is pale brown.

DISTRIBUTION: Ontario, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, Pennsylvania.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Miller (1986): 8 April to 8 July

HABITAT: North Carolina records come from coastal flatwoods.

FOOD: Larvae reportedly feed on blueberries (*Vaccinium* spp.) (Gilligan et al., 2008).

OBSERVATION_METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS:

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

COMMENTS: