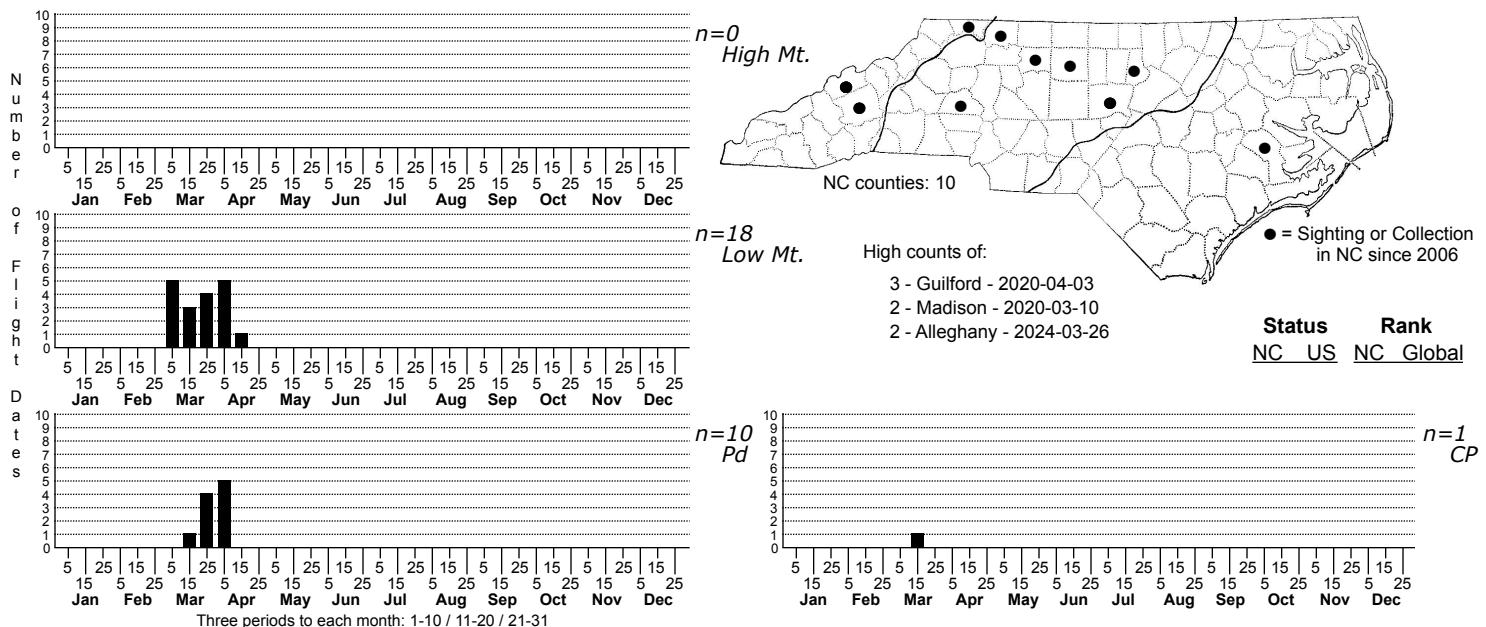


# *Pseudexentera virginiana* Virginia Pseudexentera



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: Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Heinrich (1923); Forbes (1924)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS:

DISTRIBUTION: *Pseudexentera virginiana* is restricted to eastern North America where it occurs in extreme southern Canada (Ontario) and much of the eastern US. The range extends from New Hampshire and Vermont southward to Florida in the east, and from Wisconsin southward to Louisiana and eastern Texas in the west.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Local populations are univoltine. The adults have been observed from January through May in different areas of the range, with a seasonal peak in March and April. As of 2022, we have records from early March through late May, with almost all from mid-March through mid-April.

HABITAT: This species is generally associated with hardwood forests or wooded residential neighborhoods, but the specific habitat requirements are poorly documented.

FOOD: The larval hosts have not been reported.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults visit lights during the early spring months.

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: Scattered populations are known primarily from the lower mountains and Piedmont, but we do not have sufficient information on habitat requirements, host use, and abundance to assess the conservation status of this species.