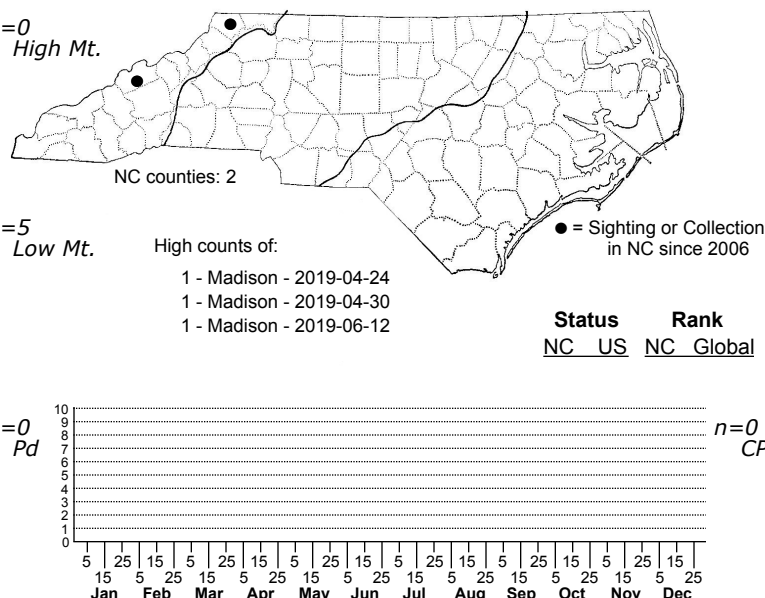
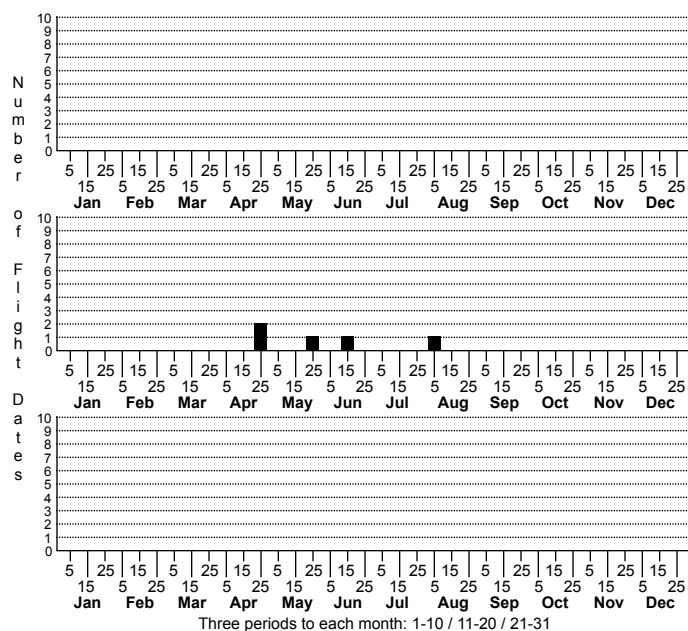


Gretchena delicatana None



FAMILY: Tortricidae SUBFAMILY: Olethreutinae TRIBE: Eucosmini

TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: *Gretchena* is a New World genus with 12 recognized species. Eleven species occur in North America, and eight of these are endemic to eastern North America.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Heinrich (1923)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: This is one of several species of *Gretchena* that is best identified using genitalia. Heinrich (1923) noted that this species is perhaps most similar in terms of external morphology to *G. amatana*, but differs in having narrower forewings and a cleaner looking, more diffused, and more whitish gray powdering on the forewing. The pale suffusion often extends along the costa to the wing base and breaks the basal patch. The longitudinal black scaling also tends to form a more continuous narrow line from the apex to well back on the upper margin of the cell, but does not form a conspicuous sickle-shaped mark as seen in some *Gretchena*. The hindwing is also paler, especially towards the base. As with many of our *Gretchena*, genitalia are the most reliable way to obtain a positive identification.

DISTRIBUTION: *Gretchena delicatana* is found in eastern North America, with most records from the northeastern US and adjoining areas of Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia. In the US the range extends from Connecticut and Massachusetts westward to Illinois, and southward mostly through the Appalachian region to eastern Tennessee and western North Carolina. As of 2024, all of our records are from the Blue Ridge.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been observed from April through July in different areas of the range. As of 2024, our records extend from late-April through early-August.

HABITAT: local populations are generally associated with hardwood or mixed hardwood-conifer forests.

FOOD: Reported hosts include *Betula* and *Ostrya* (Raizenne, 1952; Nystrom & Ochoa, 2006).

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR[S2S]

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 and restricted to the Blue Ridge where it appears to reach its southern range limit.