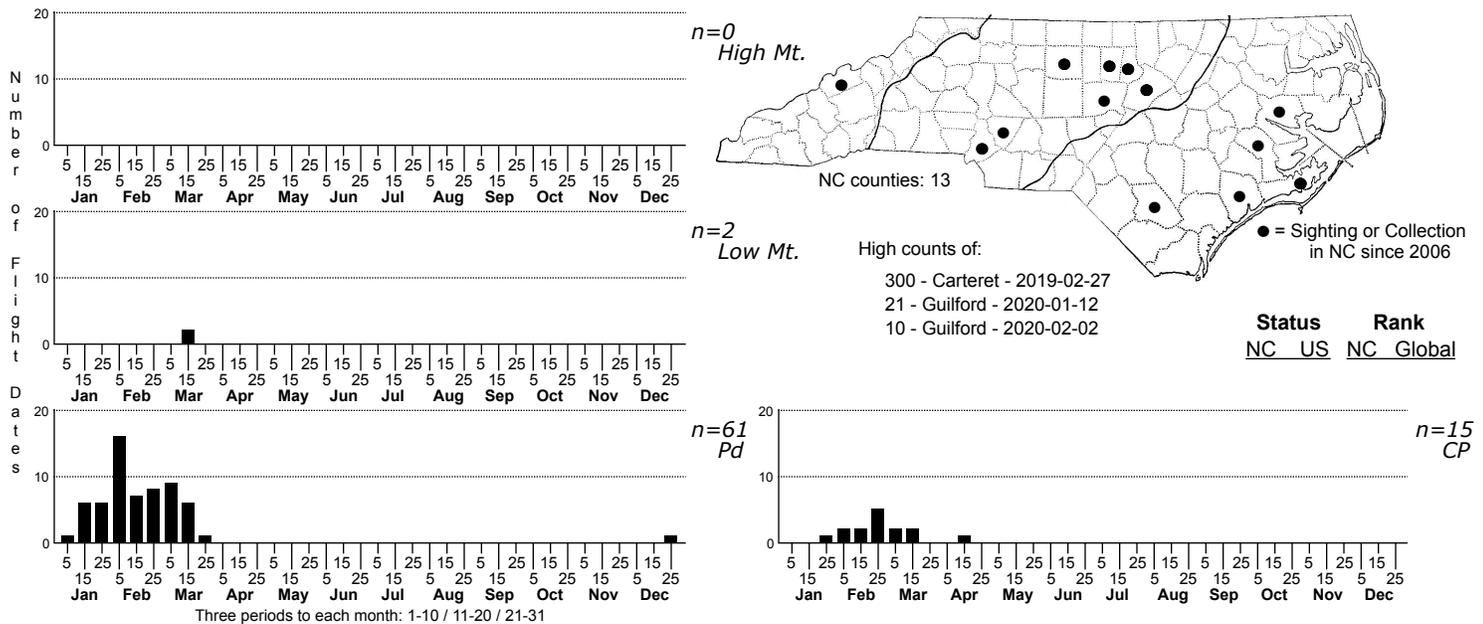


## *Chimoptesis gerulae* Carrier Moth



FAMILY: Tortricidae SUBFAMILY: Olethreutinae TRIBE: Eucosmini

TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS: *Chimoptesis* is a largely neotropical genus with 25 described species, four of which occur in the US (Razowski and Becker, 2015).

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Heinrich (1923, as *Griselda gerulae*)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The following description is based primarily on that of Heinrich (1923). The palps, antennae, and the crest on the crown of the head are grayish fuscous (Heinrich, 1923). The ground color of the forewing varies from grayish brown to dull ochereous-fuscous, with a whitish median patch on the dorsal margin (sometimes obscure) that extends inward to about one-third of the wing width. The white patch is preceded by a broad area of black that commonly extends from the wing base to the patch and covers the dorsal two-thirds or more of the wing. Immediately behind the patch is a narrower band of black that extends along the dorsal margin. A narrow arc of black extends from the median area of the costa obliquely to near the middle of the wing, then projects backwards to the apex. The costal portion is often fused or partially fused with the second black band behind the central white patch to produce a complete fascia. The costal edge within the arc has 3-4 short oblique dark streaks, and the apex usually has a dark costal spot. The ocellar region is rather poorly expressed and typically paler than the surrounding ground, and there are two or three faint black horizontal dashes in the ocellus. The hindwing is pale smoky fuscous.

*Chimoptesis pennsylvaniana*, which flies at the same time, is similar but has a much more conspicuous area of white or greenish-white running along the dorsal margin. Unlike *C. pennsylvaniana*, the palps and crests are not contrasting.

DISTRIBUTION: The range is largely restricted to the southeastern US and peripheral states. Specimens have been found from eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey southward to Florida and westward to eastern Texas, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and southern Indiana. As of 2022, we have records from all three physiographic provinces, with the great majority from the Piedmont and Coastal Plain.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Local populations appear to be univoltine with the adults active during the winter and early spring months. The adults have been found from December through May in different areas of the range, with a seasonal peak in February and March. As of 2022, our records extend from early January through late-March.

HABITAT: Most of our records are from semi-wooded residential neighborhoods and other partially shaded habitats.

FOOD: The host plants are undocumented, but other *Chimoptesis* feed on oaks.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S4S5

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 secure within the state.