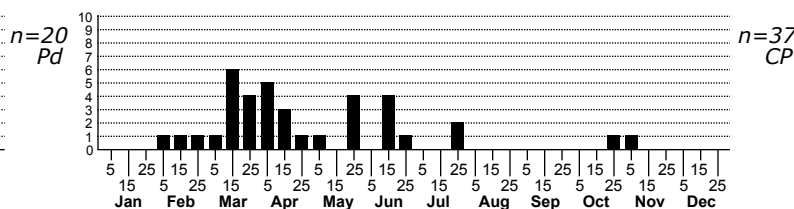
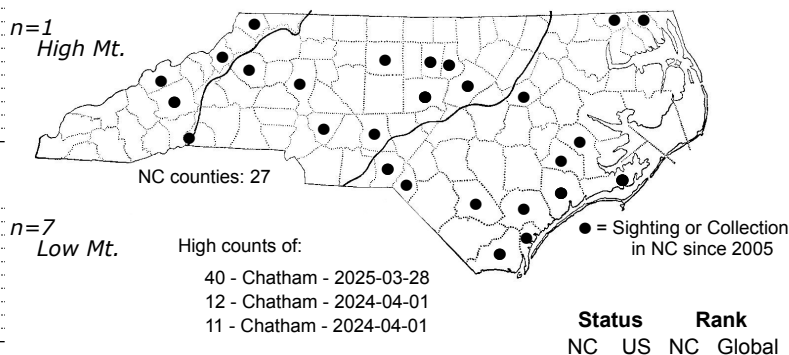
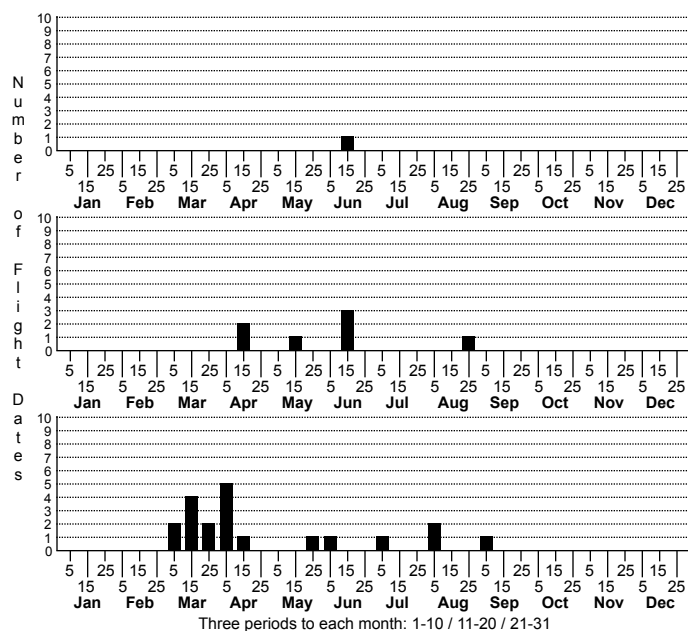


Rhopobota dietziana Winterberry Moth



FAMILY: Tortricidae SUBFAMILY: Olethreutinae TRIBE: Eucosmini
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Kearfott (1907a), Gilligan et al. (2008)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The following is based in part on the original description by Kearfott (1907a). The head is pale brown on top, while the basal joints of the antenna and the face are white. The palps are white with brown shading often present on the outside of the first two segments, and the antenna shaft is light to medium brown. The thorax and ground of the forewing is dull grayish-white with scattered patches of orangish-brown scales. The forewing ground is overlain with three brownish-black regions, the most prominent being a sub-basal fascia at about one-third that is broad and extends from the inner margin to the costa. Before this there is usually a broken irregular line of blackish spots that extend from the inner margin towards the costa and represent a basal fascia of sorts. A third variably expressed fascia of sorts extends from the middle of the costa obliquely to the inner margin at about three-fourths. It often curves and terminates at the middle of the wing, but may continue to the inner margin as a poorly defined dark band. The costa has a series of faint whitish strigulae that are intermixed with brown dots or streaks. The dark streaks become more pronounced on the apical half and end before a dark apical spot at the apex. The ocellus is poorly defined and consists of a grayish-white region with one or two rows of brownish-black scales. The termen above the middle is bordered by a fine black line that runs to the apical spot, and the fringe is grayish-brown. The hindwing is smoky gray with concolorous cilia that have a slightly darker basal line.

This species superficially resembles both *R. finitimana* and *R. naevana* and is best distinguished by the whitish coloration on the face and the base of the antenna. *Rhopobota finitimana* differs in having a solid brown basal patch and a brown face, head and scape.

DISTRIBUTION: *Rhopobota dietziana* is restricted to eastern North America, with the range including portions of southern Canada (Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia) and much of the eastern US from Maine southward to southern Florida and westward to eastern Texas, eastern Oklahoma, western Tennessee, western Kentucky, and northern Indiana. This species occurs statewide in North Carolina, but is less common in the Blue Ridge relative to the Piedmont and Coastal Plain.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Local populations appear to have two or more broods per year. The adults have been found during most months of the year, but mostly fly from March through September. As of 2022, our records extend from early February through early November.

HABITAT: Local populations have been found in a variety of habitats that support native hollies, including coastal pinelands, maritime forests, pocosins, and bottomland forests.

FOOD: The larvae appear to specialize on hollies (Eiseman, 2022; Heppner, 2007; J.B. Sullivan, pers. obs.), with the known hosts including Dahoon Holly (*Ilex cassine*), Inkberry (*I. glabra*) and Common Winterberry (*I. verticillata*).

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights and the mines can be found on native holly leaves.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S3S5

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 relatively secure within the state given that it is widespread and locally common in many places.