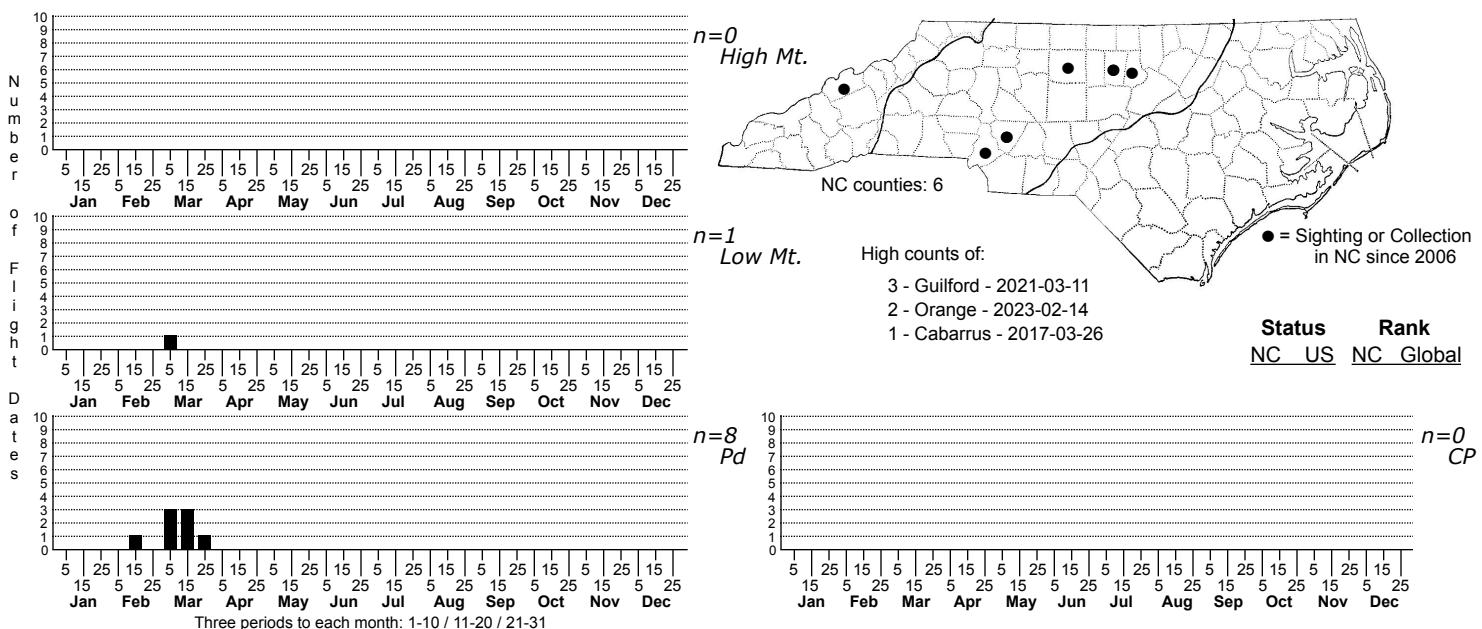


Epinotia celtisana None



FAMILY: Tortricidae SUBFAMILY: Olethreutinae TRIBE: Eucosmini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

THE GUIDE TO ONLINE PHOTOS

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Brown (1986): as *Epinota laracana*.

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION IMMATURE STAGES.

ID COMMENTS: This species is highly variable in coloration and patterning across its range (Brown, 1986). North Carolina specimens typically have light gray to light grayish-brown coloration overall, with variable amounts of white or white-tipped scales that are intermixed, along with scattered, fine brownish reticulations. The general pattern is overlain with larger dark brown to blackish marks that are variably expressed. These include an outwardly oblique fascia just before the middle of the wing that extends from the inner margin to near the center of the wing, and an irregular, inwardly-curved fascia that extends from the middle of the costa to the inner margin at around four-fifths the wing length. The latter is often interrupted and may break up into one or two larger blotches on the dorsal half of the wing. The fringe is more or less concolorous with the general forewing color and has a conspicuous dark-brown to blackish basal band along its length. Specimens from outside of North Carolina often have a prominent, dark, basal streak and females are often heavily dusted with dark scales along the middle of the wing.

DISTRIBUTION: The range is rather poorly documented because of misidentified specimens and confused taxonomy. This species is thought to be broadly distributed across much of the eastern US and adjoining areas of southern Canada (Ontario; Quebec). Brown (1986) documented specimens from Ontario, Wisconsin, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Mississippi and Texas. As of 2024, all of our records are from the eastern and central Piedmont.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Adults in the southern areas of the range typically fly in late winter or early spring, while those in northern regions fly later (April-May). As of 2024, our records extend from mid-February through late-March.

HABITAT: This species is thought to specialize on hackberries, which are found in rich, circumneutral woodlands and edge habitat.

FOOD: The host are poorly documented, but this species is thought to specialize on hackberries (*Celtis*) based on a single rearing record from Texas by Riley (1881). As of 2024, we are unaware of any other rearing records for this species, and more effort is needed to document host use.

OBSERVATION METHODS: This is a late-winter flier that will come to lights on warm nights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNB [S3S4]

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

COMMENTS: This appears to be an uncommon species in North Carolina, but has likely been under collected due to its habit of flying very early in the season.