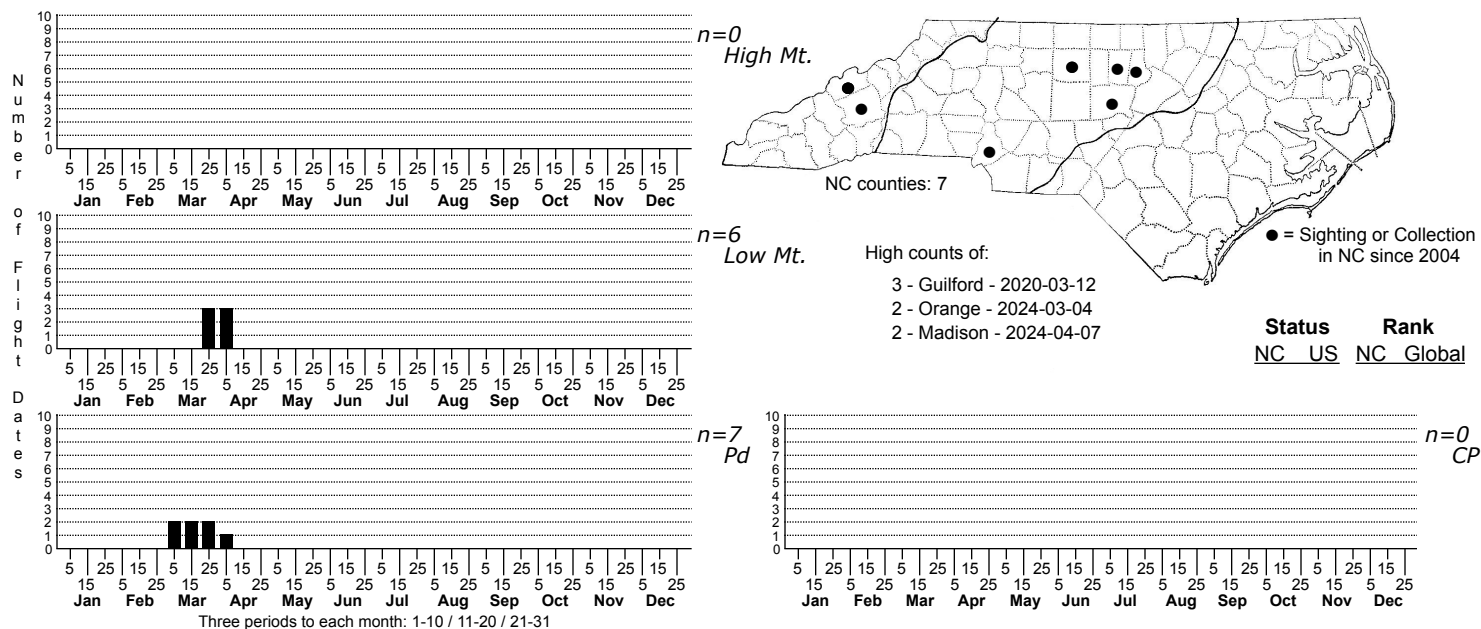


Epinotia sotipena Black Dash Epinotia



FAMILY: Tortricidae SUBFAMILY: Olethreutinae TRIBE: Eucosmini
 TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Brown (1986)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The following description is based in part on that of Brown (1986). The ground color of the head, thorax and forewing is light grayish brown and is intermixed with variable amounts of white or white-tipped scales. The forewing has two prominent dark-brown marks that include a wide, median, basal streak that terminates at around two-fifths the wing length, and an outwardly curved band that extends from near the middle of the costa before ending near the center of the wing at around two-thirds the wing length. A diffuse, brown pre-apical spot is often present beyond this that may be confluent with the median fascia in some specimens. A small, brown, apical spot is sometimes also present, and a series of diffuse, dark, strigulae are present along the costa. Most specimens are suffused with grayish orange to orangish-brown scales between the median fascia and apex. The cilia has a mixture of whitish and brown scales, with a well-defined basal row of dark-brown scales.

DISTRIBUTION: *Epinotia sotipena* is found in eastern North America, including Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick, and portions of the eastern US from Pennsylvania westward to Wisconsin, and southward to North Carolina, Tennessee, Arkansas, Louisiana, eastern Oklahoma and northeastern Texas. This species is absent or nearly so from the southeastern Coastal Plain. As of 2024, all of our records are from the Piedmont and lower elevations in the Blue Ridge.

FLIGHT COMMENT: This is an early-season flier that has been documented from February through May in different areas of the range, with a seasonal peak in March and April. As of 2024, our records extend from early-March through early-April.

HABITAT: Many of our records are from mesic hardwood sites or semi-wooded residential neighborhoods with hardwoods.

FOOD: As of 2024, we are unaware of any reports of the hosts.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR[S2S3]

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: This species appears to be uncommon in the state, but more information is needed on its host plants, preferred habitats, and distribution and abundance before we can accurately assess its conservation status within the state.