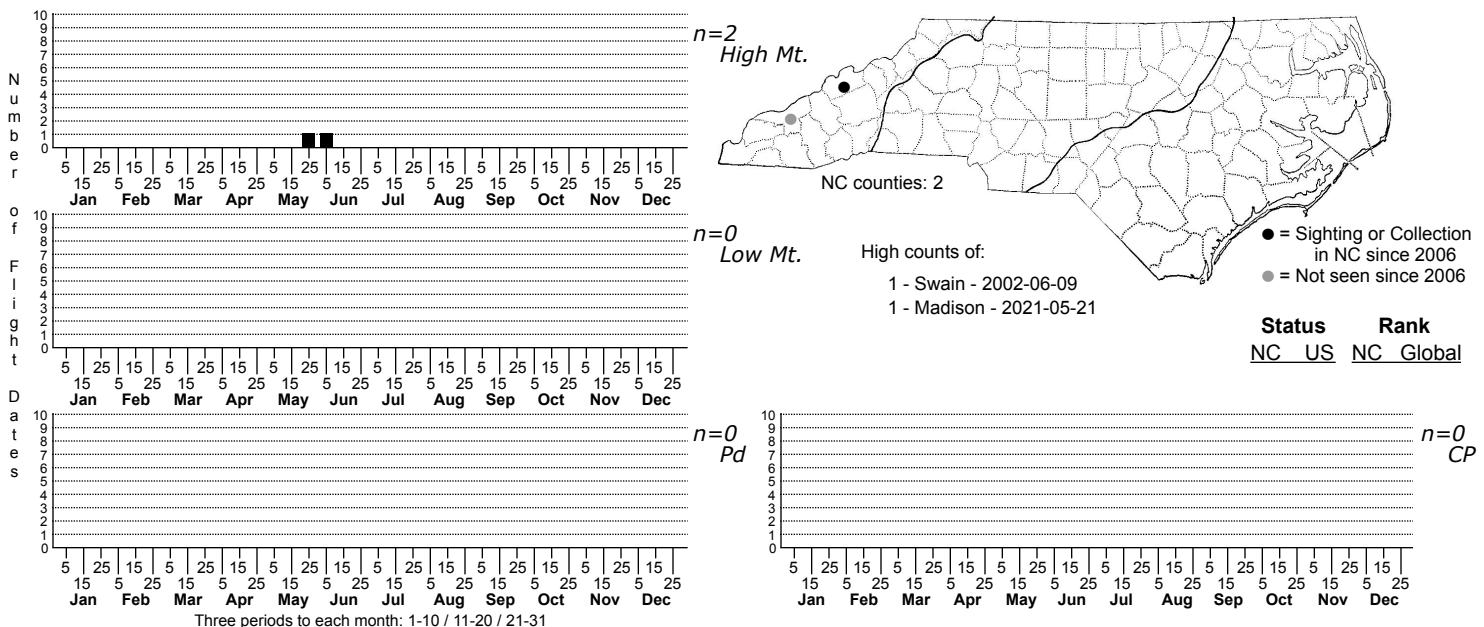


# *Epinotia rectiplicana* None



FAMILY: Tortricidae SUBFAMILY: Olethreutinae TRIBE: Eucosmini  
TAXONOMIC COMMENTS:

#### FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

#### ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1923).

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: This is one of our most colorful and easily recognizable *Epinotia* species. The head tuft, thorax and ground color of the forewing are white, while the antenna is annulated with whitish and dark brown banding. The white ground of the forewing is overlain with complex patterning that includes scattered, dark-gray to grayish-brown specks, larger dark-brown to blackish spots and blotches, and orangish scaling associated with the costal striations and outer margin. A prominent, diffuse, blackish blotch is usually evident between the ocellus and the costa that is preceded by an orangish blotch. A similar but smaller blackish blotch occurs below the inner margin at around two-fifths the wing length from the base that is often accompanied by two or three blackish spots or striae. The apical half of the costa has four or five pairs of white strigulae that alternate with brownish-orange spots. Orangish lines project from these and towards the outer margin where they often fuse with a zone of orangish scales along the outer margin. The ocellus has a few blackish, longitudinal streaks on an orangish ground color, and groups of silvery scales surround most of the ocellus. The fringe is silvery-gray with a prominent blackish basal line, and the hindwing varies from light brown to brownish-gray.

DISTRIBUTION: As currently recognized, *Epinotia rectiplicana* is broadly distributed across both eastern and western North America and likely represents an unresolved species complex. This species occurs in California, and from Alaska and Northwest Territories southward to British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan. From there the range extends eastward across southern Canada to Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. Specimens have been observed in the eastern US from Maine and other New England states southeastward through New York and Pennsylvania to western North Carolina. As of 2024, we only have two records, and both are from two higher elevation sites in the Blue Ridge.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Specimens have been documented from May through October in different areas of the range, with adults in the US mostly flying in May and June. As of 2024, our two records are from late-May and early-June.

HABITAT: This species is found in cool climates and is likely restricted to higher-elevation sites in North Carolina. As of 2024, our two records are from a northern hardwood forest and a Spruce-fir forest (Clingman's Dome).

FOOD: The larvae feed on several genera of hardwoods (Prentice, 1966; Mayer and Beirne, 1974; Ferguson, 1975). The reported hosts are Gray Alder (*Alnus incana*), Paper Birch (*Betula papyrifera*), Apple (*Malus pumila*), Fire Cherry (*Prunus pensylvanica*) and willows (*Salix* spp.). As of 2024, we do not have any host records for North Carolina.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights. Information is needed on the larval hosts, particularly for the eastern US.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR[S1S3]

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 reach its southern range limit in the southern Appalachians where it is restricted to higher-elevation forests. More information is needed on its host plants, habitat preferences, distribution and abundance before we can accurately assess the conservation status of this species within the state.