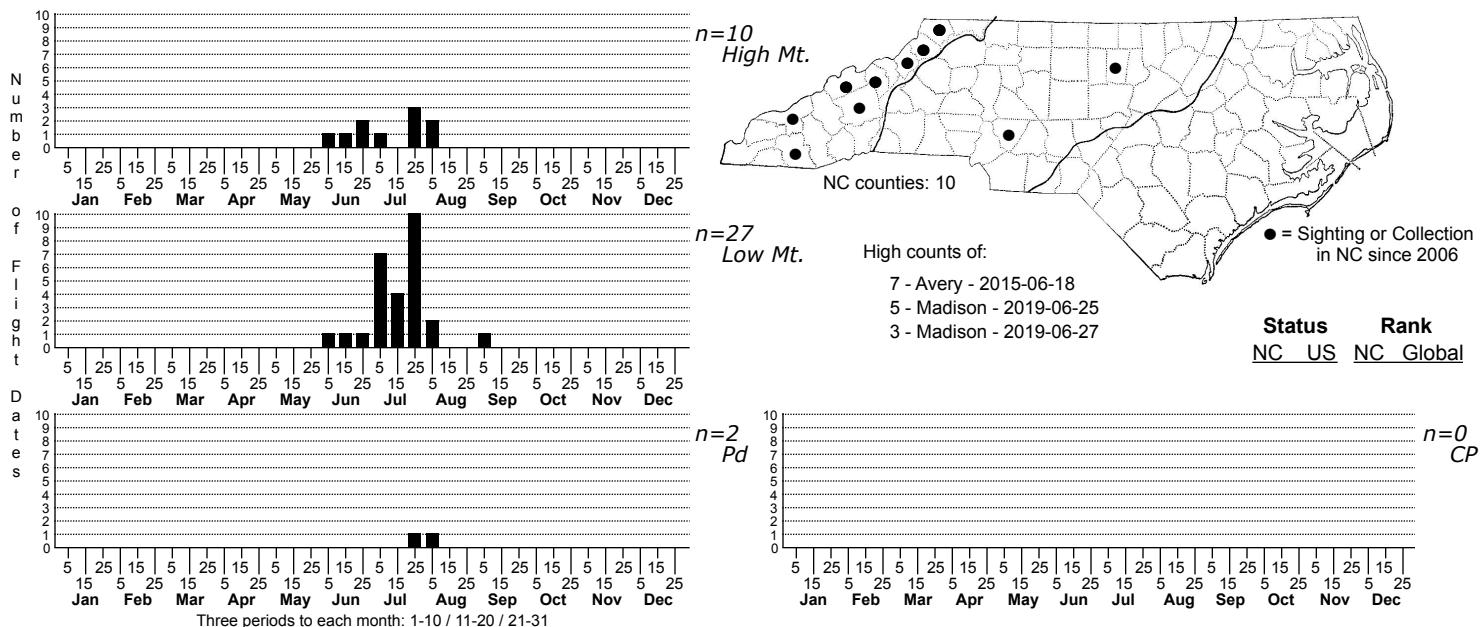


Epinotia transmissana Walker's Epinotia



FAMILY: Tortricidae SUBFAMILY: Olethreutinae TRIBE: Eucosmini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: This is our most colorful *Epinotia* species. The head tuft and palps are light brown, while the antenna and thorax are a slightly darker shade of brown. The forewing has a prominent, outwardly-angled, brown patch on the basal third that has darker brown mottling within. It contrasts sharply with an adjoining, triangular to squarish, median white patch that covers the dorsal half of the wing. The area between the white patch and the ocellus has a mosaic of blackish, brownish and silvery-gray scales. The ocellus has two or three black longitudinal lines on an orangish ground color, and is bordered with a vertical band of silvery-gray scales on the anterior and posterior margins. The apical half of the costa has five or more pairs of white strigulae that alternate with brown spots. Orangish-brown lines project from the spots towards the outer margin where they often fuse with a zone of orangish-brown scales along the outer margin. The fringe is light brown with a prominent blackish basal line with paler margins. The hindwing varies from light to medium brown with a relatively faint dark basal line.

DISTRIBUTION: *Epinotia transmissana* is a cool-climate species that occurs in Alaska and throughout most of southern Canada from British Columbia and Alberta eastward to Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. The range in the US extends from Minnesota across the Great Lakes region to the New England states, and southward mostly through the Appalachian region to eastern Kentucky, western Virginia, eastern Tennessee, and western North Carolina. As of 2024, most of our records are from lower to higher-elevations in the Blue Ridge, with two records from the Piedmont.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been observed from May through September in different areas of the range, with a peak in seasonal activity from June through August. As of 2024 our records extend from early-June to early-September. Local populations in North Carolina are univoltine, as appears to be the case elsewhere in the range.

HABITAT: Local populations in North Carolina are commonly associated with mesic hardwood forests that support birches.

FOOD: The hosts are poorly documented, but include birches (*Betula*) and willows (*Salix*; Forbes, 1923; Heinrich, 1923; Prentice, 1966; Miller, 1987; Beadle and Leckie, 2012). As of 2024, we do not have any host records for North Carolina. Sweet Birch (*B. lenta*) and Yellow Birch (*B. alleghaniensis*) are the suspected hosts in North Carolina given their prevalence at most collection sites, but this has yet to be verified.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights. Information is needed on host use in North Carolina.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR[S3S4]

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

COMMENTS: This cool-climate species reaches its southern range limits in the southern Appalachians. It can be locally common where mesic hardwood forests prevail.