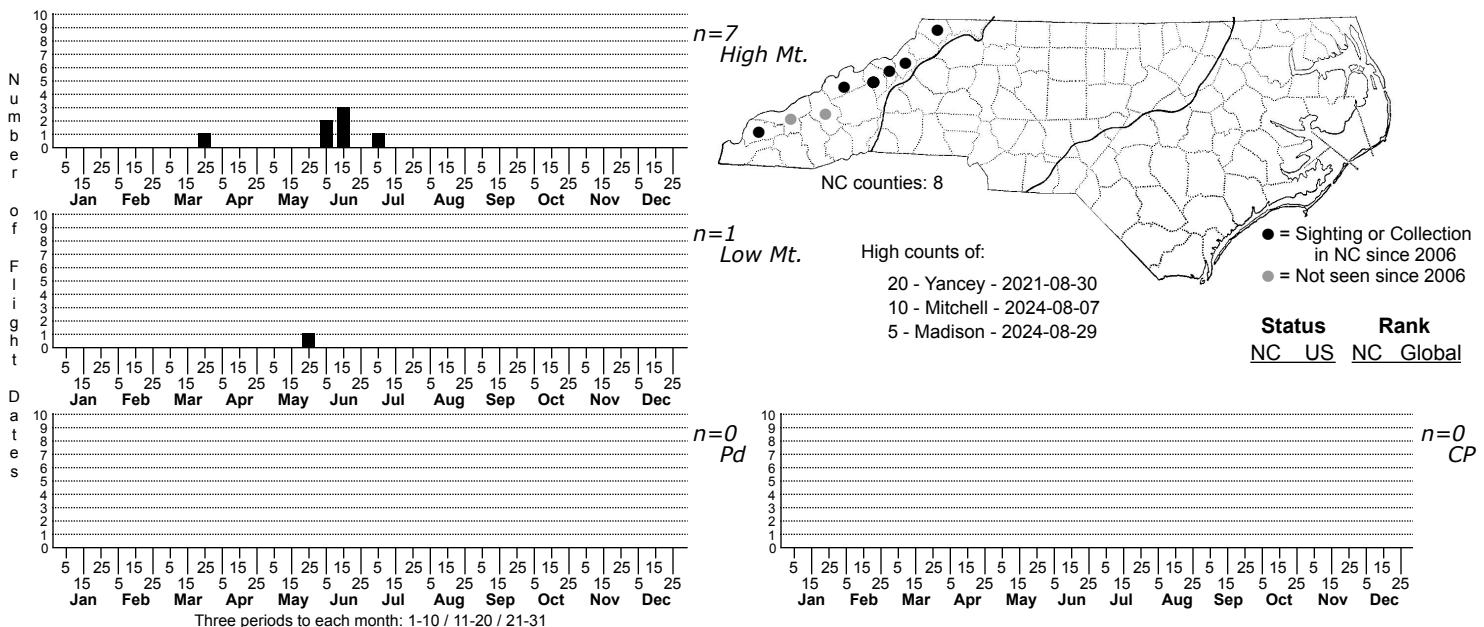


Ancylis discigerana Yellow Birch Leaffolder Moth



FAMILY: Tortricidae **SUBFAMILY:** Olethreutinae **TRIBE:** Enarmoniini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: The genus *Ancylis* contains around 130 described species that occur worldwide. The exact number of species in North America is uncertain due to several unresolved species complexes, but is around 35 species.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: In this species the antenna and head tuft are dark brown, while the palps and face are contrastingly white. The thorax is often pale to whitish anteriorly and fades to brownish black posteriorly, with the dark posterior portion concolorous with a large patch on the inner margin. The forewing ground is white and overlain with a prominent dark patch along the inner margin that covers much of the dorsal half of the wing. The patch has a smooth margin and widens distally, then narrows and terminates at about the middle of the wing to produce a pearl shape when a resting individual is viewed from above. A much smaller, irregular, subterminal patch is often present along the inner margin. The second most prominent mark is a wide, outwardly oblique, dark band that extends from near the middle of the costa inwardly. It terminates near the middle of the wing where it often merges with a small, adjoining concolorous patch. Just beyond this are two black horizontal dashes that are followed by a patch of leaden-gray scales that occur just before the orangish-brown subterminal region. The costal has a series of three or four brownish streaks on the apical half, along with a larger concolorous mark at the apex. The fringe is whitish with a broad zone of darker shading on the outer portion and is cut with two white streaks near the apex. The hindwing is light to medium brown with a slightly lighter fringe.

DISTRIBUTION: Pohl et al. (2018) list this species as occurring from British Columbia to Nova Scotia in Canada. In the US the range extends from Maine westward to Minnesota and Iowa, southward through the Appalachian region to eastern Tennessee and western North Carolina. The status of populations in California is uncertain. As of 2022, all of our records are from middle to high-elevation sites in the Blue Ridge.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been observed from May through October in different areas of the range, with the seasonal peak in most areas in June and July. As of 2022, our records are from late May through early July.

HABITAT: All of 2022, almost all of our records come from high elevation forests where Yellow Birch is present.

FOOD: The larval host plants include Yellow Birch (*Betula lenta*), Paper Birch (*B. papyrifera*), and Quaking Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) (MacKay, 1959; Prentice, 1966; Brown et al., 2008; Lam et al., 2011). Robinson et al. (2010) also list Common Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*) and a clover (*Trifolium*) as hosts. The latter is presumably erroneous and reflect misidentified larvae or adults. BugGuide has a rearing record for Common Ninebark, but the larva that is shown more closely resembles that of *A. spireaeifoliana*. Yellow Birch is the only documented host species in North Carolina as of 2024.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights and the leaf folds with larvae can be found on Yellow Birch during the summer months at higher elevation sites.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S2S4

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

COMMENTS: This species is at the southern limit of its range in western North Carolina, but can be locally common at higher elevation sites.