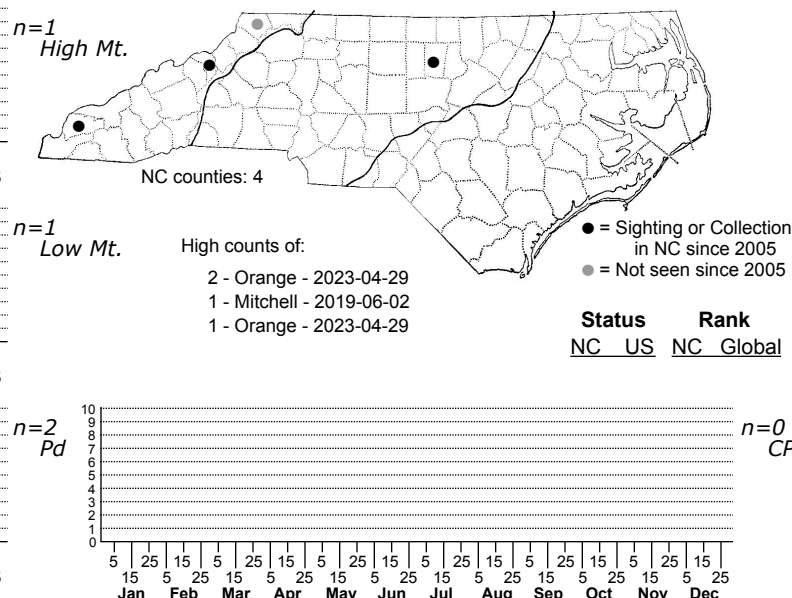
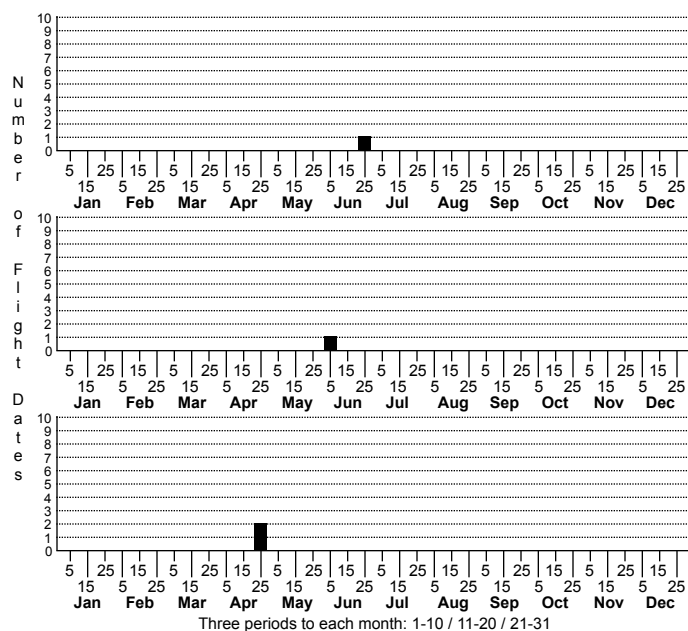


# *Ancylis metamelana* Black-marked Ancylis



FAMILY: Tortricidae SUBFAMILY: Olethreutinae TRIBE: Enarmoniini

TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS: *Ancylis metamelana* was at one time treated as a member of the *A. spiraeifoliana* complex and generally resembles members of this group (Heinrich, 1923). It was subsequently treated as being separate from this group based on comparisons of the male genitalia, which lack the bifid uncus that is characteristic of the members of the *A. spiraeifoliana* complex (Gilligan et al., 2008). This species appears to be restricted to higher elevation sites in the Blue Ridge where it can be found with *A. discigerana*. Here we treat high-elevation specimens that resemble members of the *A. spiraeifoliana* complex as this species, with the caveat that specimens are best identified using genitalia.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: This species generally resembles members of the *A. spiraeifoliana* complex, but has a more yellowish-brown caste or wash on the forewings and tends to be somewhat smaller (Gilligan et al., 2008). The forewing has a prominent reddish-brown to dark-brown basal patch that is margined posteriorly with a narrow line of paler scales. There is a reddish-brown to brown, posteriorly oblique, median band that extends from the costa to two, black, longitudinal dashes anterior to the ocellus. The anterior margin of the band is not crisply defined, which gives the band a smeared appearance. The posterior margin of the band is margined with a narrow line of whitish scales and is followed by a series of five or six short white costal dashes that tend to project towards the ocellus. The apex has a prominent reddish to dark brown spot that adjoins two small whitish dashes in the fringe.

*Ancylis metamelana* is generally found at more northern latitudes and tends to be found at higher elevations in the Blue Ridge where it is often found with *A. discigerana*. The latter lacks the yellowish-brown caste or wash of *A. metamelana* and has a more clearly defined median band (not appearing smeared in *A. metamelana*). Heinrich (1923) also noted that *A. discigerana* has a faint bluish mark near the tornus that is not present in *A. metamelana*. The former is generally associated with Yellow Birch, which is the only known host plant in North Carolina, while *A. metamelana* specializes on clovers and can be found outside of areas with Yellow Birch.

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT:

FOOD: Larvae reportedly feed on clover (*Trifolium* spp.) (Robinson et al., 2023).

OBSERVATION\_METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS:

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

COMMENTS: