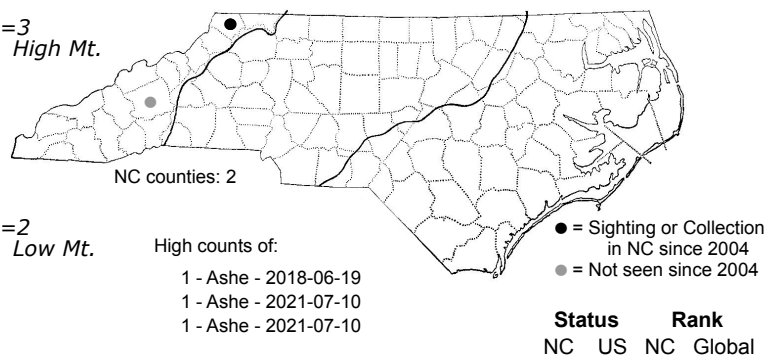
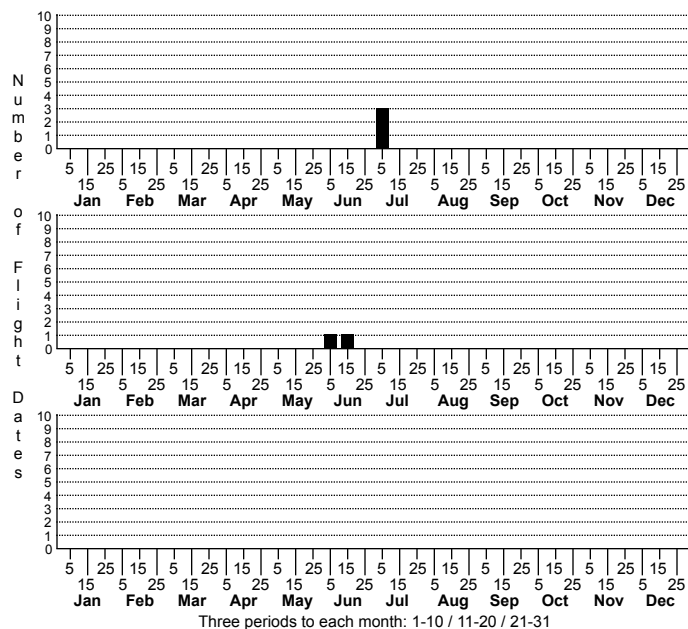


Acleris albicomana Red-edged Acleris Moth



FAMILY: Tortricidae SUBFAMILY: Tortricinae TRIBE: Tortricini
 TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: *Acleris albicomana* is a distinctively marked *Acleris* that has a series of four broad bands on the forewing, with the first two forming an oval-shaped mark on the basal half of the wing when individuals are at rest. The palps, head and thorax are typically lemon-yellow, with the latter having two small reddish-orange to light reddish-brown spots at the distal tip. The ground color of the forewing is similar to that of the head and thorax, but often slightly darker. The forewing has four, irregular, wide bands that vary from reddish-orange to light reddish-brown. These include a basal band that is curved inward and extends from the inner margin to the costa, and three outwardly curved bands that extend from the inner margin to the costa, with the first two the broadest. The first outwardly curved band runs from a third of the way out on the costa to just before the middle of inner margin, while the second extends from two-thirds of the way out on the costa to four-fifths of the way out on the inner margin. Both of these tend to break into reddish-orange reticulations below the costa (Forbes, 1923). The last is a narrower subterminal band that curves from the costa at about four-fifths the wing length and terminates just below the anal angle. The fringe is concolorous with the forewing ground, and the hindwing varies from white to yellowish. Color morphs are occasionally seen that have an overall dark orange or orangish-brown ground color on the forewing rather than the more typical lemon-yellow color.

DISTRIBUTION: *Acleris albicomana* is widely distributed across southern Canada and the United States. Specimens have been found in Canada in British Columbia, and from Ontario eastward to Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. In the U.S. the range extends from Maine westward through the northern tier of states to Washington and Oregon, then southward to central California. From there it extends eastward through Arizona, New Mexico and Missouri to eastern Tennessee and western North Carolina. As of 2024, all of our records are from the Blue Ridge at middle to higher elevations.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been found from April through September in different areas of the range, with a seasonal peak from May through August. Populations in North Carolina and elsewhere are univoltine. As of 2024, our records are from early-June through early-July.

HABITAT: In the eastern U.S. this species is generally associated with hardwood forests. As of 2024, all of our records are from hardwood forests or in close proximity to hardwood forests, including in areas with fens and heath thickets.

FOOD: The larvae appear to be polyphagous (Kearfott, 1907b; Godfrey et al., 1987; Anonymous, 1989; Brown et al., 2008; Robinson et al., 2010), with oaks probably being the primary hosts in the eastern U.S. The reported hosts include Eastern Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*), huckleberries (*Gaylussacia*), Scarlet Oak (*Quercus coccinea*), Northern Red Oak (*Q. rubra*), blueberries (*Vaccinium* spp.) and roses, including California Wild Rose (*Rosa californica*), Baldhip Rose (*R. gymnocarpa*) and various ornamental roses. As of 2024, we do not have any host records for North Carolina.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights and the larvae can be found in leaf ties on oaks.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S2S3]

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

COMMENTS: This wide-ranging species appears to be rare in North Carolina, with our only recent records all from Ashe County.