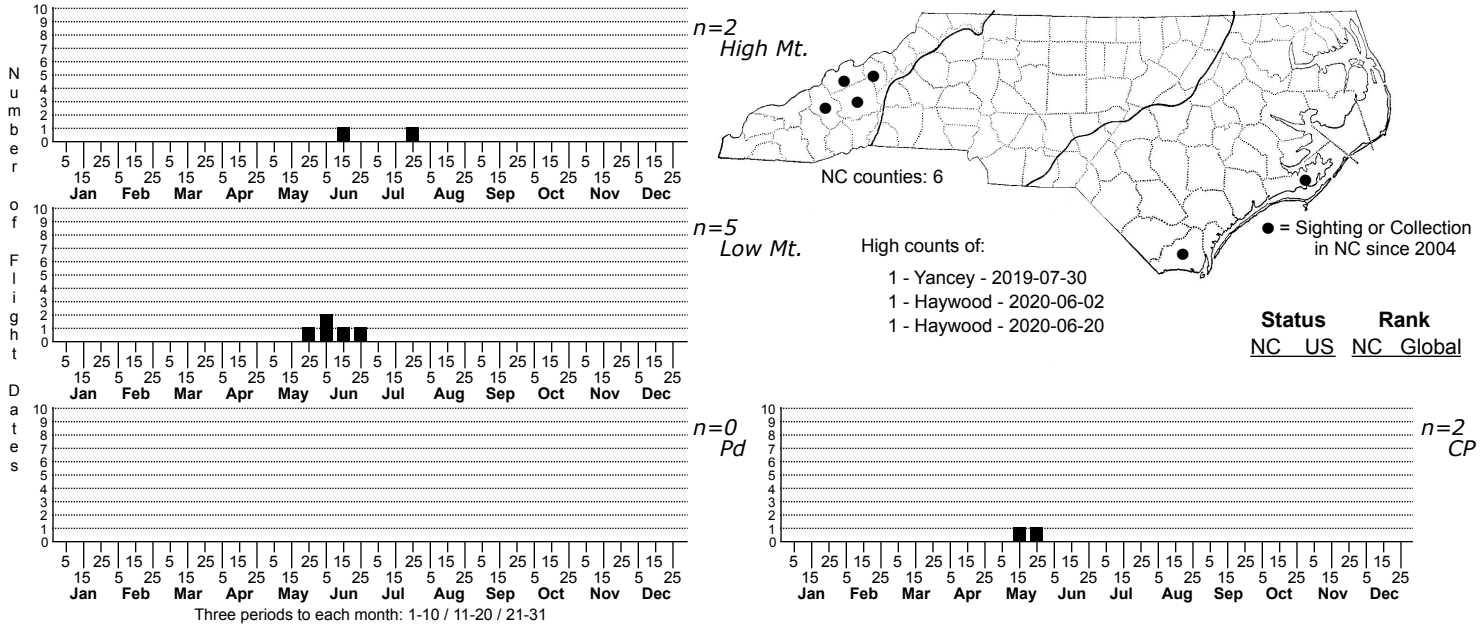
# *Acleris curvalana* Blueberry Leaftier Moth




FAMILY: Tortricidae SUBFAMILY: Tortricinae TRIBE: Tortricini
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984; as Croesia curvalana)
ONLINE PHOTOS:
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Ponder and Seabrooke (1988)

ID COMMENTS: As with many Acleris species, the adult patterning is variable. In the most common form the palps and head are lemon-yellow, while the thorax is concolorous, but often with variable amounts of brownish-orange scaling. The forewing is predominantly reddish-brown except for a yellowish region on the basal third of the wing that is mostly restricted to the dorsal half, a band of yellowish coloration on the subterminal area that widens towards the apex, and a raised, yellow discal spot near the center of the wing at around two-thirds the wing length. Many specimens also have a narrow line of yellow along most or all of the costa. The subterminal area has a wide, dark reddish-brown band that curves from the anal angle to the outer third of the costa where is joins a similarly colored wide longitudinal band that runs along the costa to the wing base. Collectively, they produce a horse-shoe shaped mark when a resting adult is viewed from above. Blackish, raised scale patches occur on the dorsal half of the wing at around one-third and one-half the wing length, and faint bands of lead-gray scales are sometimes evident on the basal and apical thirds of the wing. The fringe is yellowish and the hindwing is brown. Specimens are occasionally found that deviate substantially from the general description above, including ones with forewings that are nearly uniformly reddish-brown and others that are predominantly yellow, with two curved reddish-brown bands at around one-third the wing length and in the subterminal region.

DISTRIBUTION: Acleris curvalana is found in North America as two disjunct groups, with one in the eastern U.S. and adjoining areas of southern Canada, and the second in the Pacific Northwest and adjoining areas of southwestern Canada and southern Alaska. In the East, this species occurs in Canada from western Ontario eastward to Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland, while in the U.S. in occurs from Maine southward to Florida and westward to Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa and Minnesota. As of 2024, all of our records are from either middle to higher elevation sites in the Blue Ridge or from coastal communities.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults fly from March through August in different areas of the range, with the peak seasonal flight typically in June and July. Populations in North Carolina are univoltine. As of 2024, our records are from early to mid May along the coast and from early-June through late-July in the mountains.

HABITAT: As of 2024, our records are from heath thickets with blueberries and huckleberries, either in coastal communities or at mid- to higher elevations in the mountains.

FOOD: The larvae feed primarily on blueberries and huckleberries, including cultivated varieties of Vaccinium, of which it is considered a major pest (Gillespie, 1981; Ponder and Seabrooke, 1988). In addition to heaths, the larvae have also been reported to feed on oaks and roses (Kearfott, 1907a; Brown et al., 2008), but this needs additional verification. The reported hosts include Black Huckleberry (Gaylussacia baccata), Lowbush Blueberry (V. angustifolium), High Bush Blueberry (V. corymbosum), Hillside Blueberry (V. pallidum) as well as cultivated varieties of Vaccinium. In North Carolina, our only rearing record as of 2024 was from a  Vaccinium at a high-elevation site in the Blue Ridge (jim Petranka, pers. obs.).

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights and the tied terminal leaves can be found on blueberries.

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 appears to be uncommon in the state, with specimens coming from both coastal and mountain communities with blueberries and huckleberries.