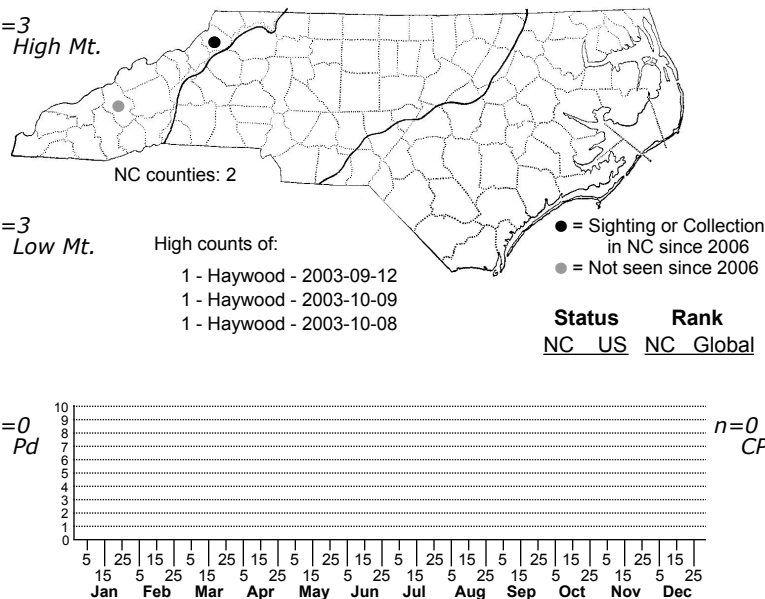
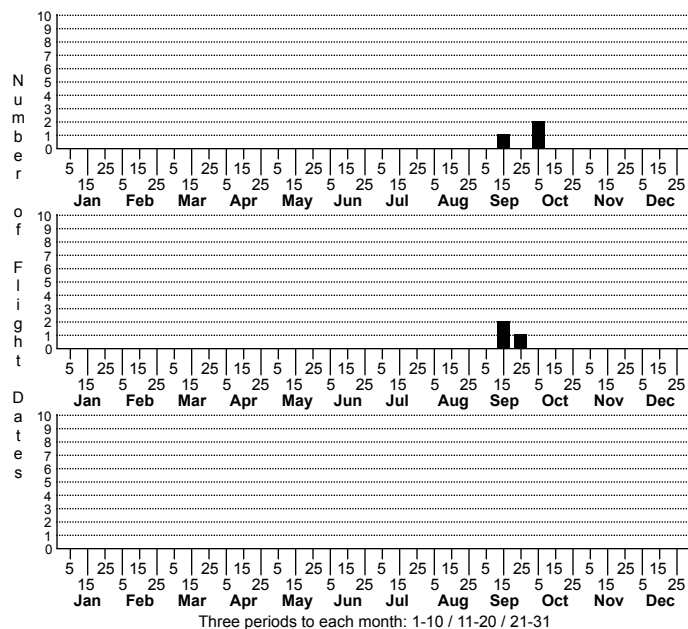


# *Acleris macdunnoughi* MacDunnough's Acleris



FAMILY: Tortricidae SUBFAMILY: Tortricinae TRIBE: Tortricini  
TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Obraztsov (1963).

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: *Acleris macdunnoughi* has two common color morphs. The first has ashy-gray coloration on the palps, head, and thorax. The forewing ground is also ashy-gray, with the only obvious mark being a broad reddish-brown to dark brown costal triangle near the mid-wing. The triangle is truncated at the tip and terminates near the center of the wing where it adjoins a short, longitudinal dash of lighter brown or tannish scales. The only other marks are small patches of dark raised scales that are most evident below the inner margin at around one-fourth the wing length, and at the proximal tip of the longitudinal dash that adjoins the terminus of the costal triangle.

The second morph is less common and has an overall darker ground color of reddish-brown, with the costal triangle less well-defined and the thorax coppery-red. A broad whitish band with dark irregular striations runs from the costa at around one-fourth the wing length to the inner margin at around one-half the length. The band runs along the proximal side of the costal triangle and is often preceded by reticulated whitish patterning between the band and the wing base.

DISTRIBUTION: *Acleris macdunnoughi* has northern affinities, with the range in the U.S. extending from Washington and Oregon eastward across the northern tier of states to Maine, then southwestward through the Appalachian region to western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee. As of 2024 we have only a few records, and all are from middle to higher elevation sites in the Blue Ridge.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been found from April through November, with the peak seasonal flight typically from August through October. Our records as of 2024 are from mid-September through early October.

HABITAT: This species appears to be associated with wet, sunny habitats and the edges of mesic forests. In North Carolina it appears to be restricted to middle and higher-elevational sites in the Blue Ridge.

FOOD: The hosts are poorly documented, with the reported hosts including a blackberry (*Rubus* sp.), Broadleaf Meadowsweet (*Spiraea latifolia*), a blueberry (*Vaccinium*) and a willow (*Salix* sp.) (McDunnough, 1934; Ferguson, 1975; Brown et al., 2008; Robinson et al., 2010). As of 2024, we do not have any feeding records for North Carolina.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR[S1S3]

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

COMMENTS: This species has northern affinities and appears to reach its southmost limits in the southern Appalachians where it is found in middle to higher-elevation communities.