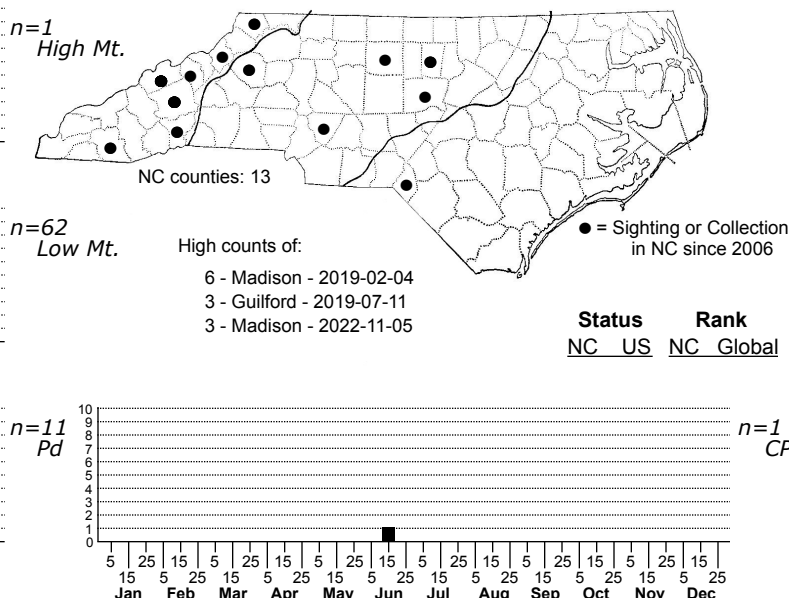
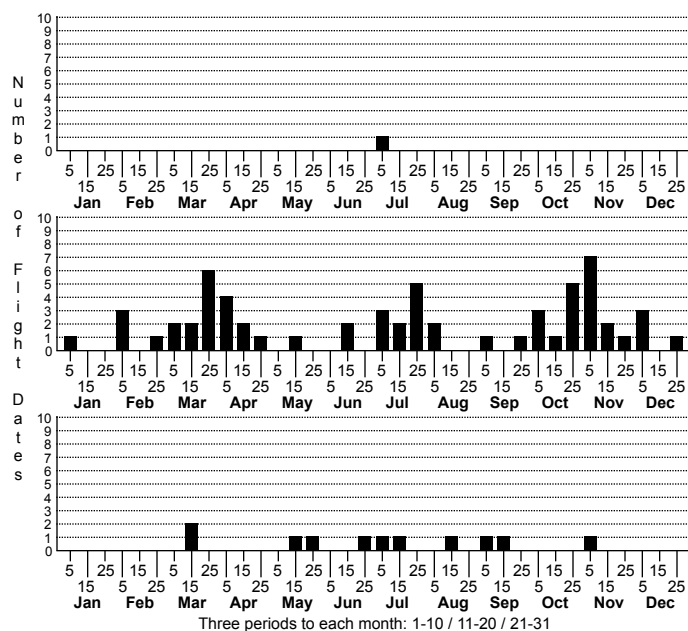


## *Acleris subnivana* Bent-winged Acleris



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

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984); Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: *Acleris subnivana* has several morphs that differ in color and patterning. The most commonly encountered form in North Carolina has the palps, head, thorax and ground color of the forewing varying from pure white to light brownish-tan. The antennae are brown, and the thorax often has a faint, curved tan line just posterior to the anterior margin, and one or two concolorous spots at the posterior tip. The costa of the forewing commonly has a faint tannish spot at around one-fourth the wing length and in the preapical region, along with a prominent, dark-brown to blackish, bluntly-rounded, costal triangle near the middle of the wing that terminates just before reaching the center of the wing. The triangle can be either solid, broken into three separate spots, or solid except for a pale region near the center. Some individuals have a yellowish-brown shade that extends from the end of the triangle to the middle of inner margin, at least in females (Forbes, 1923). The fringe has a chestnut-tan color that is rather distinctive for this species, while the hindwing is gray and markedly darker than the ground color of the forewing. Females have a more concave costa than the males, along with rougher scales both before and after the concavity (Forbes, 1923). Other less commonly encountered forms include individuals that are heavily speckled with diffuse brown spots that are arranged in lines and cover most of the wing, and individuals that are broadly reticulated with brown lines and spots.

DISTRIBUTION: *Acleris subnivana* occurs throughout most of the eastern U.S. and adjoining areas of southern Canada, including Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia. Scattered records are also known from British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan. In the U.S., the range extends from Maine southward to southern Alabama, and westward to central Texas, central Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, eastern Kansas, eastern Nebraska, Minnesota and northeastern North Dakota. The species is generally absent or uncommon in many areas of the southeastern Coastal Plain. As of 2024, all of our records are from the Piedmont and Blue Ridge.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been found during every month of the year in different areas of the range, with many populations appearing to have two generations per year. Many northern populations are single-brooded due to short growing seasons. Local populations in North Carolina appear to have two generations per year, with the adults from the second brood appearing in the fall and overwintering. They begin to appear at lights as early as January or February and reach a peak in March and April. Adults from the first brood emerge in June and July, while those from the second brood emerge in September through October. As of 2024, our records range from early January through late-December.

HABITAT: Our records are mostly from either from hardwood forests or from fragmented landscapes with mixtures of forests, fields and residential neighborhoods.

FOOD: The hosts are poorly documented, but oaks appear to be the primary hosts (Prentice, 1966; Covell, 1984; Wagner et al., 1995a; Brown et al., 2008; Robinson et al., 2010; Lam et al., 2011). The reported hosts include Scarlet Oak (*Quercus coccinea*) and Northern Red Oak (*Q. rubra*). Reports from ironweed (*Vernonia*) seem questionable, and need confirmation.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights and wine and sugar bait.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR[S4S5]

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

COMMENTS: This species can be locally common and appears to be relatively secure in North Carolina.