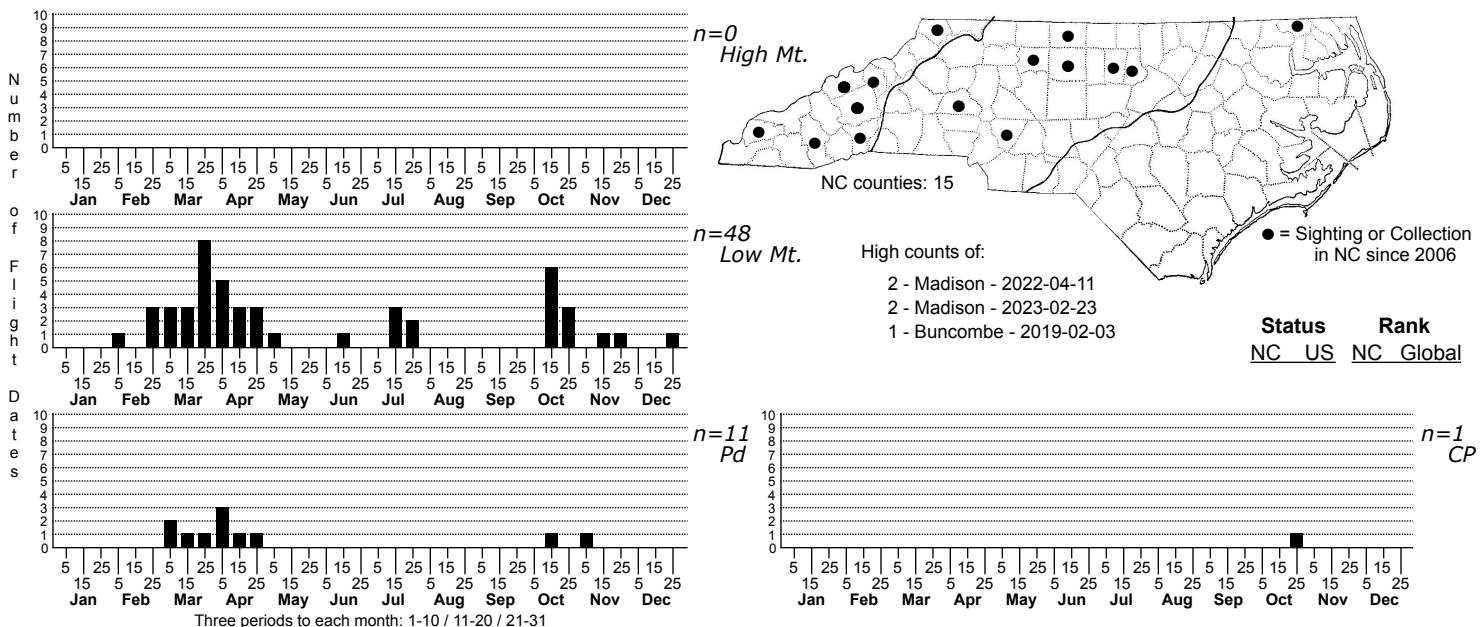


Acleris flavivittana Multiform Leafroller Moth



ID COMMENTS: As the name implies, the Multiform Leafroller (*Acleris flavivittana*) exhibits a wide range of phenotypes or morphs and is best identified by genitalia. Once a genitalia-based library of morphs are built for local or regional populations, individuals often can be assigned correctly to this species with high confidence using external patterning and coloration. Many of the morphs have forewings that are predominantly dark brown or dark reddish-brown, with various patterns of white overlay that include fine, longitudinal streaking, longitudinal bands, or white frosting. Other morphs have tan or grayish ground colors with various combinations of blackish to chestnut-colored longitudinal bands or streaks.

DISTRIBUTION: *Acleris flavivittana* is widespread and common in eastern North America, but a few scattered records are also known from Oregon, Washington, Alberta and Saskatchewan. In the East this species is found in southern Canada (Manitoba; Ontario; Quebec; New Brunswick; Nova Scotia) and in the U.S. from Maine and other New England states southwestward mostly through the Appalachian region to northern Georgia and central Alabama. From there, it extends westward to western Tennessee, western Kentucky, Illinois and Wisconsin. This species appears to be uncommon or absent in many areas of the southeastern Coastal Plain. As of 2024, all of our records are from the Blue Ridge and Piedmont.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been observed during every month of the year in different areas of the range, with local populations in many areas likely having two generations per year. As of 2024, our records range from early-January through early-November. Populations in the Blue Ridge, where we have the most comprehensive data set, appear to have two generations each year -- with the adults from the second brood overwintering and becoming active with the spring warm-up.

HABITAT: Most of our records are from mesic forests or forest edges with mixed deciduous hardwoods.

FOOD: Information on host plants is scarce. The known hosts include commercial apples (*Malus pumila*) and Fire Cherry (*Prunus pensylvanica*) (Chapman and Lienk, 1971; Ferguson, 1975; Brown et al., 2008; Gilligan and Epstein, 2014). Beadle and Leckie (2012) list alder (*Alnus*), birch (*Betula*) and *Viburnum* as hosts, but we are unaware of the basis for this. 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[S3S4]

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

COMMENTS: The species can be locally common at lower-elevation sites in the Blue Ridge.