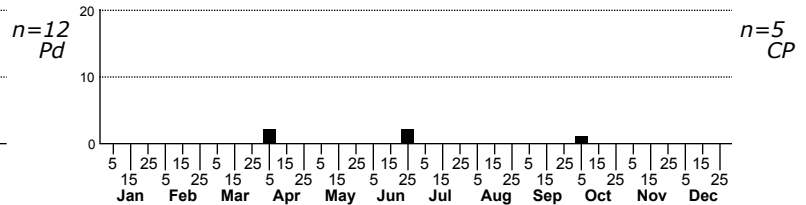
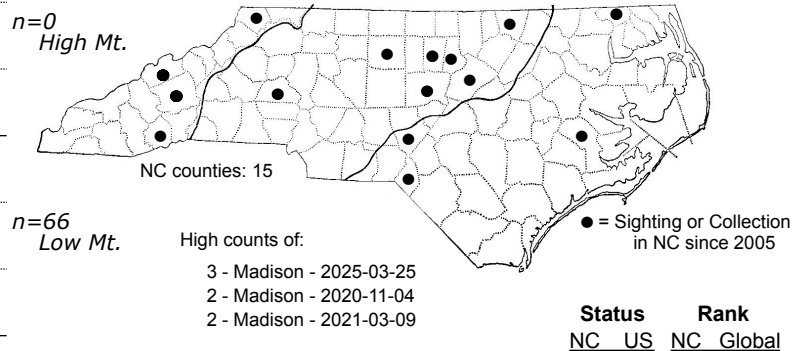
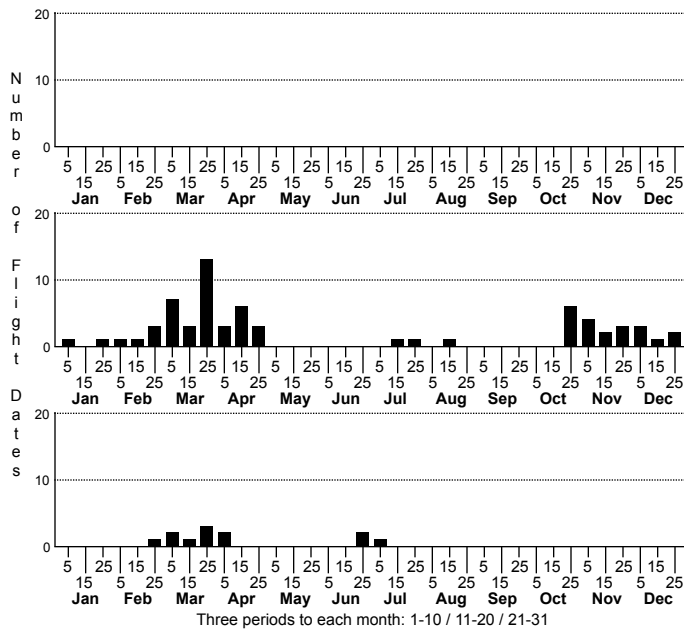


# *Acleris maculidorsana* Stained-back Leafroller Moth



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

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: This is a distinctively marked *Acleris* with resting individuals having a silvery-gray, donut-shaped pattern that encloses a horse-shoe-shaped chestnut-brown mark. The palps, head and antennae are silvery-gray and the thorax mostly so except for a thin, faint, chestnut-brown, weakly curved line on the anterior end, and a chestnut-brown spot or short, longitudinal dash on the posterior margin. The forewing has a conspicuous, broad, silvery-gray arc that extends from the wing base and gradually narrows before terminating at or near the inner margin at around one-half the wing length. The region inward from the silvery-gray arc consists of a smaller dark-brown arc along the inner margin, with the proximal end often being continuous with similar-colored marks on the posterior half of the thorax. The area distal to the silvery-gray arc has a chestnut-brown ground colored that is overlain with varying amounts of silvery-gray frosting. The entire wing often has varying degrees of fine, widely-spaced, dark brown speckling, with the specks often evident along the outer margin of the silvery-gray arc. The fringe is silvery-gray and the hindwing varies from tan to light-brown.

In North Carolina, *A. maculidorsana* is most easily confused *A. robinsoniana*. In *A. maculidorsana*, the curved line on the anterior edge of the thorax is chestnut-brown, the outer edge of the silvery-gray arc is relatively smooth, the posterior half of the wing is usually overlain with silvery-gray frosting, and the forewing is speckled with fine dark-brown marks. In *A. robinsoniana*, the line on the anterior edge of the thorax is dark-brown to blackish-brown, the outer edge of the silvery-gray arc is relatively wavy, the posterior half of the wing has little or no silvery-gray frosting, and the forewing has less speckling. In addition, the dark mark along the inner margin on the basal fourth of the wing tends to be arc-shaped in *A. maculidorsana* versus more triangular-shaped in *A. robinsoniana*.

DISTRIBUTION: *Acleris maculidorsana* is widely distributed in eastern North America where it occurs in southern Canada (Manitoba; Ontario; Quebec; New Brunswick; Nova Scotia) and in the U.S. from Maine southward along the Atlantic Coast states to northern Florida, and westward to Louisiana, Arkansas, western Kentucky, Ohio, northern Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota. A few records are also known from British Columbia and Alberta. This species occurs statewide in North Carolina.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been observed during every month of the year in different areas of the range. As of 2024, our records extend from early-January to late-December. Local populations appear to have two generations per year, with the adults from the second brood emerging in the autumn and overwintering. They become progressively more active with the late-winter and spring warm-up, at which point mating and egg-laying presumably occurs. The adults from the first brood emerge during the summer months and those from the second brood in the autumn.

HABITAT: Most of our records are from semi-wooded residential neighborhoods, and most from sites with mesic hardwood communities present or nearby.

FOOD: This species is probably polyphagous, but the host records are rather sparse. The reported hosts include Leatherleaf (*Chamaedaphne calyculata*), St. John's-wort (*Hypericum*), including Common St. John's-wort (*H. perforatum*), laurels (*Kalmia*), and a blueberry (*Vaccinium* sp.) (Forbes, 1923; Lam et al., 2011; Brown et al., 2008; Wagner et al., 2015). As of 2024, We do not have any feeding records for North Carolina.

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

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: This species can be locally common in the Blue Ridge at mid- to lower-elevations, but is generally uncommon in the state -- with fewer than 15 site records as of 2024. More information is needed on its habitat preferences and hosts before we can accurately assess its conservation status in North Carolina.