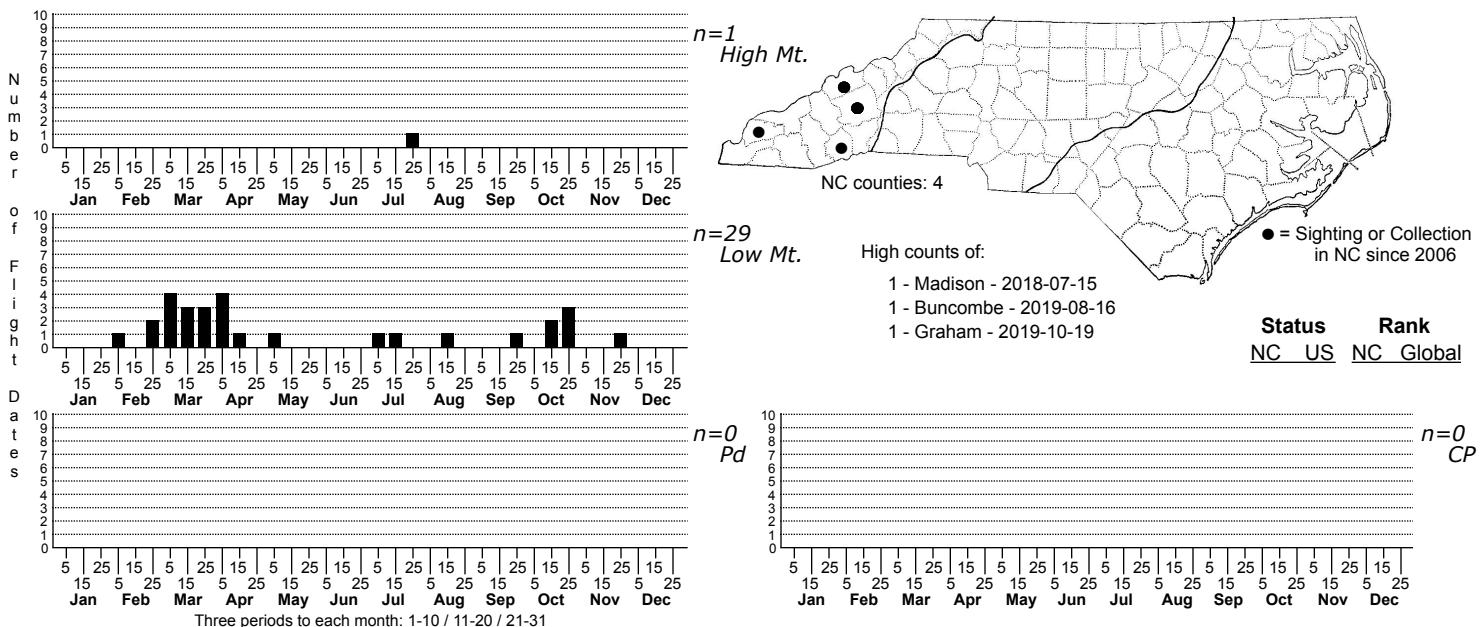


Acleris nigrolinea Black-lined Acleris



FAMILY: Tortricidae SUBFAMILY: Tortricinae TRIBE: Tortricini
TAXONOMIC COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The following is based in part on descriptions by Robinson (1869) and Forbes (1923). The palps, head, thorax and forewings are white and dusted irregularly with gray to produce an overall ashen gray appearance. In North Carolina, the thorax often has a somewhat lighter spot at the posterior end that is margined with a few darker scales on the anterior margin. The forewing often has a very faint, thin, longitudinal, black line from the wing base to about one-fourth the wing length, but it is often missing. A similar and better developed thin, longitudinal, black line extends through the middle of the wing from just before one-half the wing length to as far as the subterminal region before the termen. Raised, light grayish scale tufts are present throughout the forewing, with the most prominent forming a slightly irregular, transverse ridge at one-half the wing length. In worn specimens, this ridge of scales is often lost and leaves a transverse crevice. The hindwing is shining light fuscous, and the fringe of both wings is concolorous with the general forewing or hindwing color.

DISTRIBUTION: *Acleris nigrolinea* occurs in both western and eastern North America, with populations in the West documented from central and northern California, Colorado, Alaska, the Yukon Territory, British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan. The eastern group occurs in southern Canada from Manitoba eastward to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and in the U.S. from northeastern North Dakota and Minnesota eastward across the Great Lakes region to the New England states, then southward through the Appalachian region to eastern Tennessee and western North Carolina. As of 2024, our records are restricted to the central and southern Blue Ridge, and mostly at lower to middle elevations.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been observed from February through December in different areas of the range, with seasonal peaks following the spring warm-up and again in late-summer and early fall. As of 2024, our records extend from late-February through late-October. Populations in North Carolina appear to be bivoltine, with what are presumed to be overwintering adults first appearing in late-February and early-March. This is followed by an emergence of adults in July and August that are presumably from the first brood, then a second emergence in October from the second brood.

HABITAT: Our records are mostly from mesic hardwood forests or forest edge habitats, including semi wooded residential neighborhoods.

FOOD: The primary hosts appear to be members of the Betulaceae and Salicaceae (Prentice, 1966; Robinson et al., 2010). The reported hosts include Yellow Birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*), Paper Birch (*B. papyrifera*), Balsam Poplar (*P. balsamifera*), Quaking Aspen (*P. tremuloides*), Black Cottonwood (*P. trichocarpa*) and willows (*Salix*). There is one record of a specimen using Choke Cherry (*Prunus virginiana*) (Prentice, 1966) that needs further verification.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S2S3]

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 reach its southern range limit in western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee, where scattered populations have been found in the region.