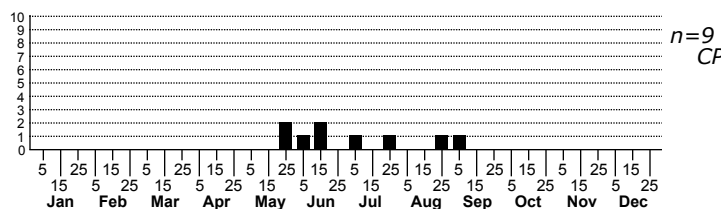
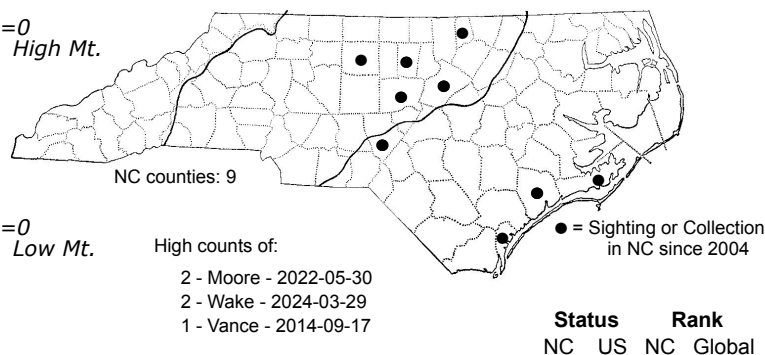
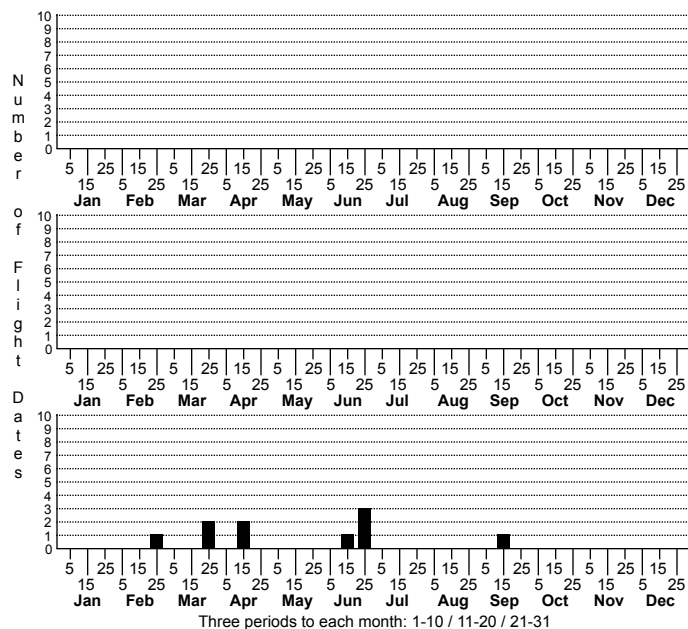


# *Argyrotaenia kimbali* Kimball's Leafroller Moth



FAMILY: Tortricidae SUBFAMILY: Tortricinae TRIBE: Archipini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: The genus *Argyrotaenia* contains approximately 100 described species, with most occurring in Nearctic and Neotropical regions. Thirty-six species are currently recognized in North America.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Obratzsov (1961)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The following is based in part on the description by Obratzsov (1961). The antenna is chestnut-brown and somewhat ferruginous towards the base, while the head is ochereous and dappled with ferruginous coloration along the sides and on the front. The labial palp varies from ochereous ferruginous to chestnut-brown. The thorax has chestnut-brown mottling and an orangish-brown scale tuft.

The forewing ground is silky cream-white with grayish transverse striations, and is dappled with varying levels of ochereous. Several darker marks overlay the ground color, with the most conspicuous being a rather broad, oblique, median fascia that runs from the middle of the costa to the dorsal margin close to the torus. The fascia lacks a club-shaped projection on the anterior face as seen in some *Argyrotaenia* species. It is distinctly bicolored, with the costal half chestnut-brown and the dorsal half predominantly light brown to ochereous, particularly on the anterior portion. The basal fourth of the wing is coarsely mottled with a series of irregular dark brown markings that are intermixed with lighter areas. The posterior margin of this region is typically defined by an irregular dark line or narrow fascia of sorts that is often broken or incomplete. It abuts an interfascial region that is wide relative to those of other closely related *Argyrotaenia* species.

Beyond the median fascia is a large, roughly trapezoid-shaped chestnut-brown costal spot that is about midway between the median fascia and the wing apex. Just dorsal to this, a faint and lighter oblong spot is often evident. A small dark costal spot is usually present between the larger trapezoid-shaped costal spot and the apex. The cilia are pale ochereous with a tendency to become whitish apically and tornally. The hindwing is cream-white.

Austin et al. (2019) noted that *A. kimbali* cannot be distinguished from other members of the *velutinana* group using genitalia, but can usually be separated from other species of *Argyrotaenia* by the distinctly bicolored median fascia, the wide pale gray or sometimes pink-washed submedian interfascia, and the absence of a club-like projection into the median fascia. The latter is present in some other members of the group such as *A. floridana*, *A. hodgesi*, and *A. tabulana*. According to Obratzsov (1961) the hind wing of *A. kimbali* is much paler than that of *A. velutinana*. In addition, *A. velutinana* has a conspicuous dark patch on the dorsal half of the wing at about one-fifth that has a prominent tooth that projects posteriorly.

DISTRIBUTION: The range is centered on the southeastern US and extends from Maryland and northeastern Virginia southwestward to western Tennessee and eastern Texas. It extends southward to include Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, and the Carolinas. As of 2022, our records are all from the Coastal Plain and eastern Piedmont.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Populations have multiple overlapping broods in the southern portion of the range and presumably fewer farther north. The adults have been observed year-round in Florida and other southern localities, with a peak during the spring and early summer months (e.g., Bullock et al., 1997). Northern populations are on the wing from April through September. As of 2022, our records extend from late March through September.

HABITAT: The adults have been observed in a variety of habitats that range open, xeric Sandhill communities to semi-wooded residential neighborhoods. They seem to be generally absent from heavily forested sites.

FOOD: The larval hosts are undocumented (Brown et al., 2008).

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: Almost all records are based on adults that were attracted to lights. We need data on host use and the larval ecology of this species in North Carolina and encourage naturalists to search for the larvae during the spring leaf-out.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S3-S4]

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

COMMENTS: