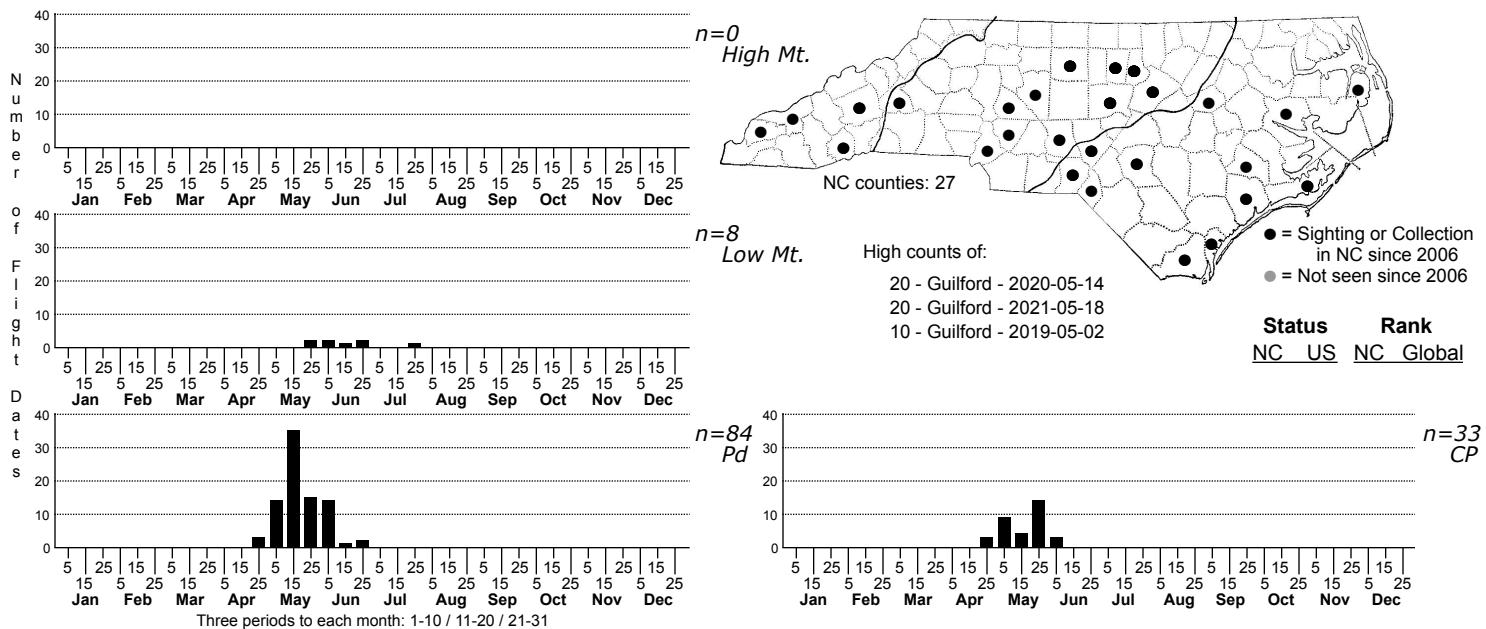


## *Argyrotaenia quercifoliana* Yellow-winged Oak Leafroller Moth



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: Covell (1984); Beadle and Leckie (2012)

## ONLINE PHOTOS:

## TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

#### TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

**ID COMMENTS:** This is a distinctively marked species that is difficult to confuse with other forms. The head, thorax, and forewing have a cream-colored ground that is speckled with numerous small golden-brown or rusty brown blotches. The forewing has two darker brown lines that begin at the costa at around one-fourth and one-half and extend obliquely to the dorsal margin. The second line commonly has a longitudinal line near its midpoint that joins a curved subterminal line to form two large hollow, irregular ovals in the subterminal area. A final dark marginal line is present at the juncture with the cream-colored cilia that is connected to the subterminal line by a series of 4-5 short longitudinal lines. The hindwing is white and sometimes has yellow shading in the lower half (Covell 1984; Forbes, 1923).

**DISTRIBUTION:** *Argyrotaenia quercifoliana* is broadly distributed across eastern North America in areas where oaks abound. The range extends from Nova Scotia westward through the New England states and adjoining areas of extreme southern Canada to as far west as Minnesota. The range extends southward through much of the eastern US before terminating in southern Texas and the remaining Gulf Coast states to as far east as Florida. This species occurs essentially statewide in North Carolina, but tends to be most common in the Piedmont.

**FLIGHT COMMENT:** The adults have been observed from March through September at different sites throughout the range, with a peak abundance from May through July. Local populations in North Carolina appear to be univoltine, with a peak in flight activity during May.

HABITAT: *Argyrotaenia quercifoliana* is typically associated with hardwood or mixed hardwood forests, particularly those where oaks are well represented. They are commonly found in residential neighborhoods in semi-wooded settings.

FOOD: Oaks appear to be the primary host species, including members of both the red oak and white oak groups (Freeman, 1958; Schaffner, 1959; Baker, 1972; Ferguson, 1975; Covell, 1984; Godfrey et al., 1987; Wagner et al., 1995a; Heppner, 2003; Robinson et al., 2010; Gilligan and Epstein, 2014; Marquis et al. 2019). Some of the documented hosts include White Oak (*Quercus alba*), Scarlet Oak (*Q. coccinea*), Bur Oak (*Q. macrocarpa*), Pin Oak (*Q. palustris*), Post Oak (*Q. stellata*), Northern Red Oak (*Q. rubra*), Black Oak (*Q. velutina*), and Live Oak (*Q. virginiana*). Species other than oaks have been reported as hosts, but the larvae wander in search of pupation sites and caution is warranted in accepting these reports. The other reported hosts include Mountain Maple (*Acer spicatum*), apples (*Malus*), American Witch-hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*), buckthorns (*Frangula*), sumacs (*Rhus*) and blackberries (*Rubus*).

**OBSERVATION\_METHODS:** Most of our records are based on adults that were attracted to lights. More information is needed on host use in North Carolina and we encourage naturalists to search for larvae and document host use.

## 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:**