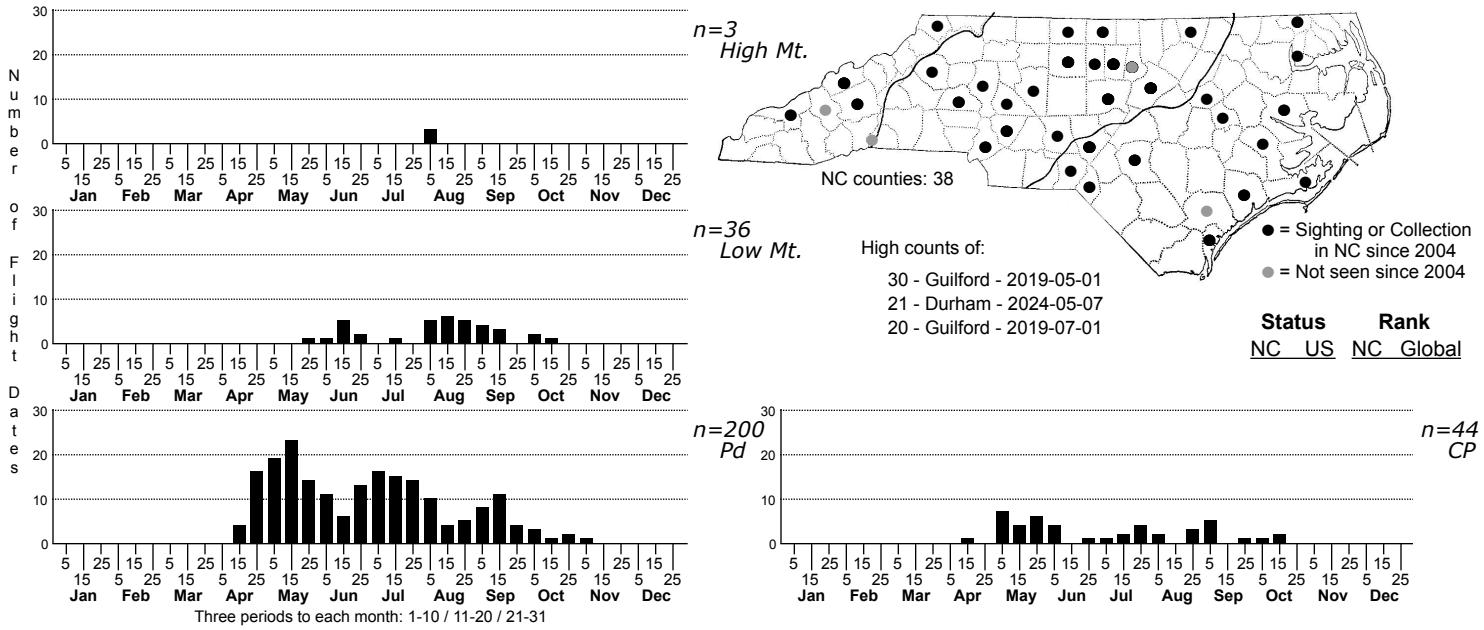
Choristoneura rosaceana Oblique-banded Leafroller Moth



FAMILY: Tortricidae SUBFAMILY: Tortricinae TRIBE: Archipini
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984); Beadle and Leckie (2012)
ONLINE PHOTOS:
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The palps, head, antennae, thorax, and ground of the forewing are typically light wood brown to reddish brown. The ground of the forewing is reticulated with distinct, irregular, and nearly transverse, dark brown striae. A basal patch is not present, but there is a narrow antemedian line at about one fourth that extends from the costa to the inner margin. The forewings of males have a small costal fold located at the base of the antemedian line (Forbes, 1923). The most conspicuous mark is a broad, posteriorly oblique, dark reddish-brown band that extends from just before the mid-point on the costa to the sub-tornal area of the inner margin. The only other conspicuous mark is a semi-oval subapical patch on the costa. Both the median band and the postmedian patch are clean-cut. The hindwing is cream-colored in males, and yellowish to orange in females, with both somewhat shaded with gray. In most of our specimens, as well as those illustrated on other websites, a blackish patch is located on the posterior tip of the thorax.

This species is often confused with Choristoneura parallela. In C. rosaceana the costal and outer margins are slightly sinuous in the males and more so in the females, while in C. parallela the costal margin is straight in the males and only slightly undulating in the females (Jason Dombroskie; see Bugguide). In addition, a blackish patch is usually present on the posterior tip of the thorax of C. rosaceana, along with a costal fold where the antemedian line meets the costa. Neither of these are present on C. parallela.

DISTRIBUTION: This species can be found in most of the forested areas of the US and throughout much of southern Canada from British Columbia to Nova Scotia. In the eastern US, specimens have been found from Maine to southern Florida, and westward to central Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, Minnesota, and North Dakota. This species also occurs in the central Rockies and other mountain ranges in Arizona and Utah, as well as in California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana. Choristoneura rosaceana is common throughout North Carolina excepts for the higher elevations in the Blue Ridge.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been documented nearly year-round in the southern portion of the range and mostly from April through October in the central and northern portions of the range. Local populations in North Carolina appear to have two or three generations per year. As of 2022, we have records from mid-April through early November.

HABITAT: Local populations can be found in a variety of habitats such has mesic hardwood and conifer-hardwood forests, wetlands, woodland borders, old fields, and commercial fruit orchards.

FOOD: The larvae are highly polyphagous and have been found feeding at least 80 species of deciduous trees, conifers, shrubs, annual crops, and weeds (Schaffner, 1959; Prentice 1965, Chapman and Lienk 1971, Gillespie, 1981; Godfrey et al., 1987; Heppner, 2007; Robinson et al. 2010; Gilligan and Epstein, 2014; Marquis et al. 2019). Members of the Rosaceae (Amelanchier, Crataegus, Fragaria, Malus, Physocarpus, Prunus, Rubus, Rosa) and oaks (including several Quercus spp.) appear to be important host taxa, but many others are used. These include the following genera: Abies, Acer, Aesculus, Alnus, Ambrosia, Amorpha, Apium, Arctium, Aster, Betula, Carya, Ceanothus, Celtis, Cercis, Cirsium, Comandra, Cornus, Corylus, Dianthus, Fagus, Fraxinus, Geranium, Helianthus, Hypericum, Ilex, Lonicera, Lotus, Ostrya, Phaseolus, Pinus, Pistacea, Populus, Rhododendron, Rubus, Salix, Solidago, Spirea, Syringa, Tamala, Tilia, Trifolium, Typha, Ulmus, Vaccineum, Verbena, and Viburnum. Gilligan and Epstein (2014) provide a comprehensive list of species that are used.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights and the larvae can be found on apples, oaks, and other host species.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S5

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

COMMENTS: This species is widespread and common in North Carolina and shows no evidence of recent population declines.