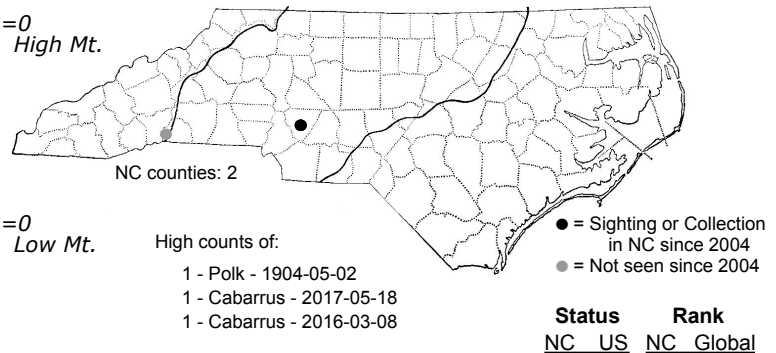
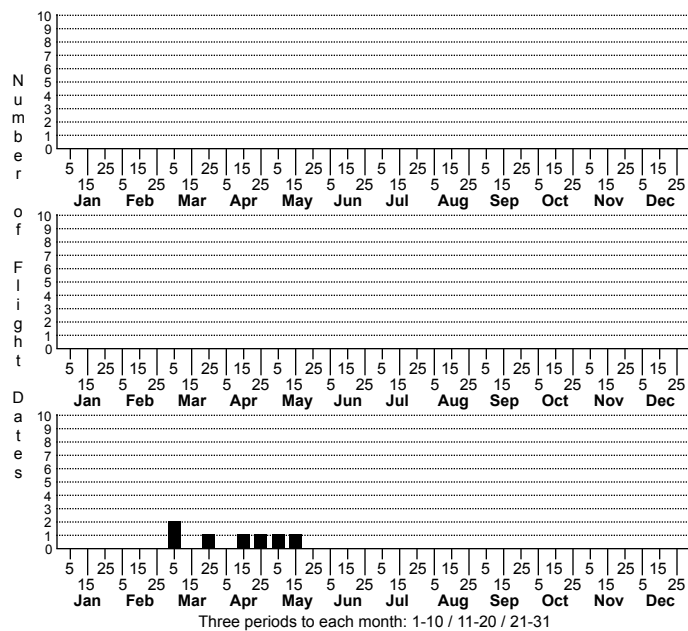


# *Choristoneura conflictana* Large Aspen Tortrix Moth



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

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1923)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The following description is based in part from that of Forbes (1923). The head, palps, antennae, and thorax are all dull gray to light brownish-gray. The ground of the forewing is similar and is faintly reticulated or striated with fine and somewhat diffuse darker lines. The ground is overlain with three darker, diffuse, grayish brown patches or bands. These include a basal patch that cover the basal one-fourth of the wing, a posteriorly oblique median band that extends from the middle of the costa to the inner margin, and a semi-oval costal patch before the apex. The area between the costal patch and the tornus is often filled with heavy concolorous dusting which, together with the patch, creates a diffuse triangular mark below the apex. Specimens often have an overall velvety look due to the diffuse marks that prevail on the forewing.

DISTRIBUTION: *Choristoneura conflictana* is primarily found at northern latitudes or in mountainous terrain elsewhere, particularly where Quaking Aspen is found. It occurs from Alaska across a broad swath of Canada eastward to Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. In the US, populations occur in northern California, the central and northern Rockies, and in the eastern US from Maine westward to North Dakota and southward to Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, New York, and Maryland. Isolated records exist in northern Florida and in North Carolina. As of 2023, we have only two records for the state, with one from Polk County being historical.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Populations are univoltine. The adults flying from May through August, with the great majority emerging in June and July. As of 2022, our two records are from May.

HABITAT: Local populations are typically associated with Quaking Aspen groves in boreal habitat. Both of our records are from residential and urban areas and might reflect introductions.

FOOD: The larvae are polyphagous and mostly feed on deciduous trees (Craighead et al., 1950; Freeman, 1958; Heppner, 2007; MacKay (1962); Prentice, 1966; Robinson et al., 2010). Quaking Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) is the primary host in Canada, but many other species are used, particularly during outbreaks. The other known hosts include Box Elder (*Acer negundo*), alders (*Alnus* spp.), Downy Serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*), Yellow Birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*), Gray Birch (*B. populifolia*), Alternate-leaf Dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*), hazelnuts (*Corylus*), American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), apples (*Malus domestica*), White Pine (*Pinus strobus*), White Poplar (*Populus alba*), Balsam Poplar (*P. balsamifera*), Eastern Cottonwood (*P. deltoides*), Bigtooth Aspen (*P. grandidentata*), Fire Cherry (*Prunus pensylvanica*), Choke Cherry (*P. virginiana*), roses (*Rosa*), willows (*Salix*), *Sorbus*, and *Vaccinium*.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights and the larvae are easily detected since they often cause extensive defoliation on the host plants.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS:

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

COMMENTS: We have only two records as of 2023 and these may reflect introductions from this boreal species.