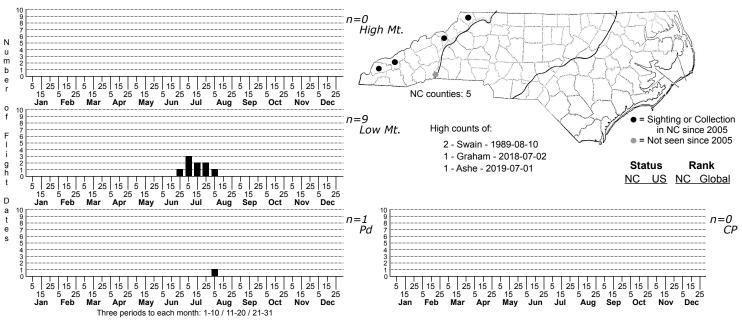
Archips purpurana Omnivorous Leafroller Moth



FAMILY: Tortricidae SUBFAMILY: Tortricinae TRIBE: Archipini TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: <i>Archips</i> is a large genus with species occurring worldwide. Most are found in Holarctic and temperate regions and they are well-represented in the Old World. North America has 26 species, including a few that are introduced.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984); Beadle and Leckie (2012) ONLINE PHOTOS: TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Freeman (1958) TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: This species is distinctive in having a strongly recurved costa on the apical half and a similar concavity on the terminal margin near the apex, which together give the apex a lobed appearance. The following description is mostly based on that of Freeman (1958). The head, palps, antennae, and thorax vary from light to dark brown, and the head has two scale tufts that are pitched to form a roof-like structure. The ground of the forewing is concolorous with the head and thorax, and has fine, darker-brown reticulations throughout. The ground is overlain with a dark median band that slants from just before the mid-costal region to the subtornal region. The band is usually interrupted near the middle and can vary from faint to well-expressed. In some individuals it may be entirely missing. The only other dark mark is a semi-oval subcostal patch in the subapical concavity that extends only a short distance inward. The fringe is light brown and concolorous with the apical region. The hindwing has a light fringe and is smoky in the posterior basal half of the anal region, and white anteriorly and apically. The males lack a costal fold, while females have a more pronounced, recurved costa.

DISTRIBUTION: <i>Archips purpurana</i> occurs across much of southern Canada from British Columbia eastward to Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. The primary range in the US is from Maine westward through the Great Lakes region to Minnesota and eastern North Dakota, and southward to a line extending from Iowa and Missouri eastward to southern Indiana, southern Ohio, and the Washington, DC area. Populations also occur southward through the Appalachians to North Carolina and Tennessee. Scattered records have been found outside of the primary range in northern Florida, western Nebraska, Texas and Montana. As of 2023, all of our records are from the Blue Ridge or lower foothills.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been documented from May through September in different areas of the range, with a seasonal peak typically from June through September. Populations in North Carolina and in most other areas are univoltine. As of 2023, our records are from early July through early August.

HABITAT: Local populations can be found in both deciduous forests and in open habitats such as old fields, prairies, and roadways.

FOOD: The larvae are highly polyphagous and have been reported to feed on a variety of both herbaceous and woody vegetation (Forbes, 1923; Freeman, 1958; Schaffner, 1959; MacKay, 1962; Prentice, 1966; Chapman and Lienk, 1971; Heppner, 2007; Robinson et al., 2010). The reported host taxa include Gray Birch (<i>Betula populifolia</i>), Annual Fleabane (<i>Erigeron annuus</i>), strawberries (<i>Fragaria</i>), ashes (<i>Fraxinus</ i>), <i>Geranium</i>, Purple Loosestrife (<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>), False Solomon's-seal (<i>Maianthemum racemosum</i>), apples (<i>Malus domestica</i>), Mayapple (<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i>), Fire Cherry (<i>Prunus pensylvanica</i>), Choke Cherry (<i>P. virginiana</i>), Bur Oak (<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>), sumac (<i>Rhus</i>), gooseberries (<i>Ribes</i>), blackberries (<i>Rubus</i>), willows (<i>Salix</i>), <i> Sassafras</i>, <i>Sedum</i>), goldenrods (<i>Solidago</i>), meadowsweet (<i>Spiraea</i>), American Basswood (<i>Tilia americana</i>), Perfoliate Horse-gentian (<i>Triosteum perfoliatum</i>), blueberries (<i>Vaccinium</i>), <i>Viburnum</i>, and violets (<i>Viola</i>). We do not have any feeding records in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S2-S4]

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

COMMENTS: This species in uncommon within the state. Additional information is needed on its distribution and abundance before we can assess its conservation status.

March 2025

The Moths of North Carolina - Early Draft