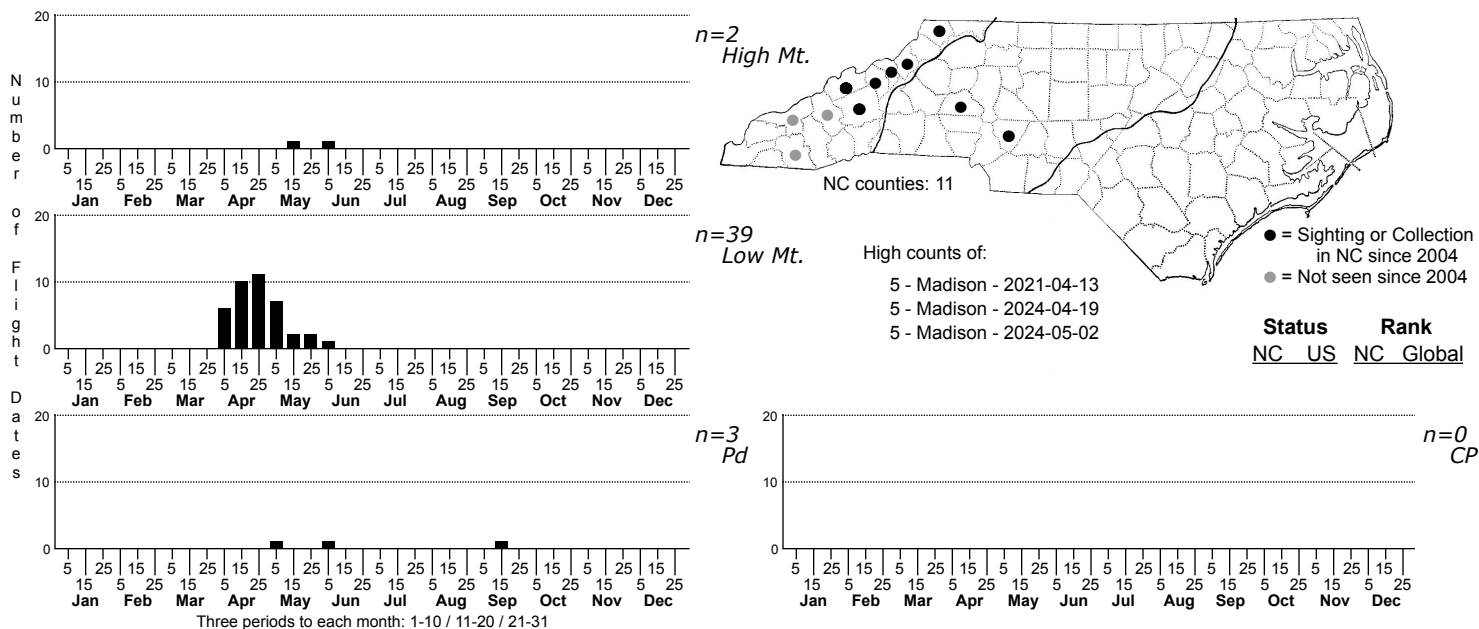


Syndemis afflictana Gray Leafroller Moth



FAMILY: Tortricidae SUBFAMILY: Tortricinae TRIBE: Archipini

TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: Rubinoff et al. (2017) examined molecular variation in *Syndemis afflictana* and provided evidence that there are five undescribed species in California masquerading as *Syndemis afflictana*. Populations from the remainder of the range in North America appear to constitute a single species. Here, we do not include the California populations with this species.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984); Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1923)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Chapman and Lienk (1971)

ID COMMENTS: In this species the head, palps, antennae and thorax are light to dull gray. The forewing ground is dull gray with scattered blackish reticulations. The most prominent mark is a broad, light gray, posteriorly oblique fascia that begins on the costa at around one third and ends on the inner margin where it broadens substantially. The fascia is margined by an irregular black line on the inner edge that is angled at the middle, and a similar line on the outer margin that is more-or-less straight. The fascia is preceded by a relatively dark basal region, while the outer edge adjoins a darker band whose outer margin is defined by a broken, irregular black line. A light costal patch is usually evident immediately posterior to the dark band. In some individuals it may continue across the wing as a faint band that reaches the tornal region. The fringe is gray and the hindwing is brown to dull gray with a paler fringe.

DISTRIBUTION: *Syndemis afflictana* is broadly distributed across southern Canada, the eastern US, and the Pacific Northwest. Specimens have been found in southern Canada from Nova Scotia westward to British Columbia, and in nearby Washington and Oregon. Populations in California appear to be a complex of undescribed species (Rubinoff et al., 2017) and are not included here. In the eastern US the range extends from Maine westward through the Great Lakes region to Minnesota and eastern North Dakota. The range also extends southward through the Appalachian region to eastern Tennessee and western North Carolina. As of 2023, all but one of our records are from the Blue Ridge.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Adults have been observed from March through September in different areas of the range, with the seasonal peak in abundance in most areas from April though June. As of 2023, our records extend from early May through early June.

HABITAT: Local populations are generally associated with forested landscapes. They can be found in both conifer-dominated and hardwood dominated forests, and along forest edges and in apple orchards.

FOOD: The larvae are polyphagous and feed on both conifers and hardwoods (Walsingham, 1879; Forbes, 1923; Freeman, 1958; Powell, 1964; Prentice, 1966; Ferguson, 1975; Heppner, 2007; Robinson et al., 2010). The reported hosts include firs, including Balsam Fir (*Abies balsamea*), maples (*Acer*), alders (*Alnus*), birches (*Beluta*), hawthorns (*Crataegus*), domesticated apples (*Malus domestica*), Northern Bayberry (*Morella pensylvanica*), spruces (*Picea*), Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), brambles (*Rubus*), Western Hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*) and willows (*Salix*).

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

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: This species reaches its southern range limit in the southern Appalachians but shows no evidence of recent marked population declines. It is somewhat uncommon, but well-represented in the Blue Ridge.