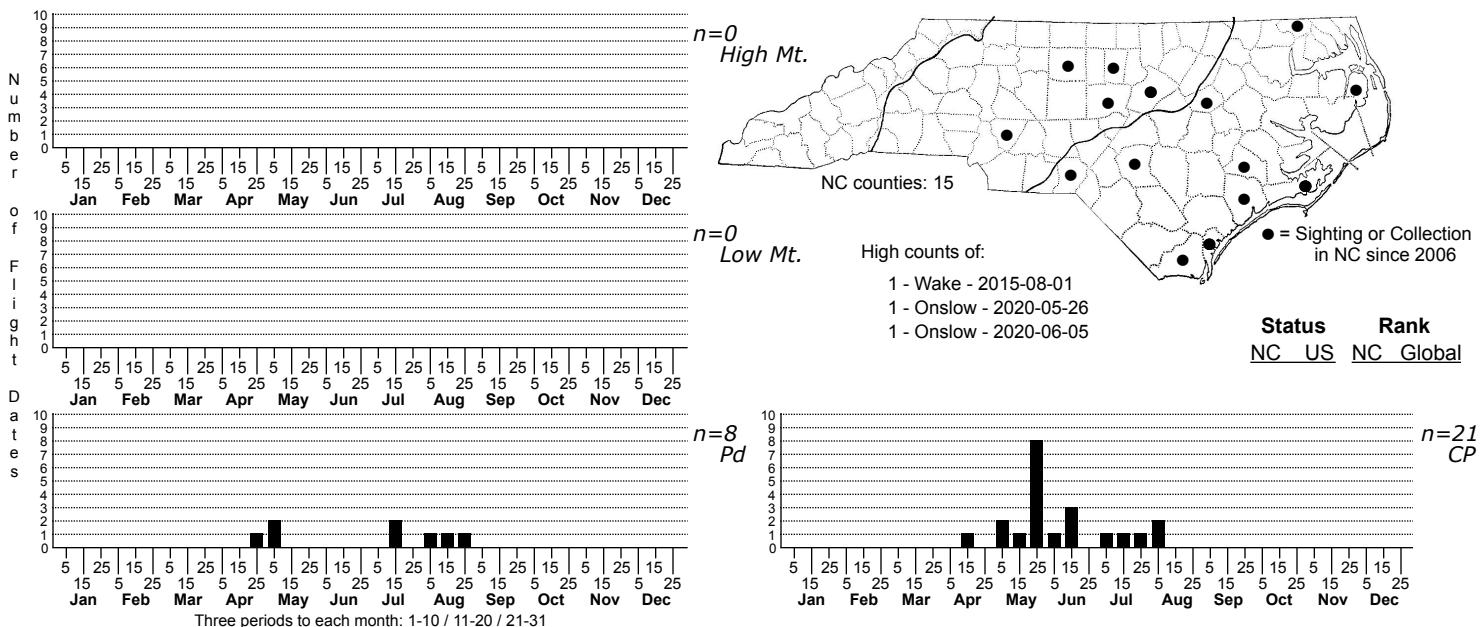


# *Eugnosta erigeronana* Fleabane Cochylid



**FAMILY:** Tortricidae    **SUBFAMILY:** Tortricinae    **TRIBE:** Cochylini  
**TAXONOMIC COMMENTS:**

**FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:**

**ONLINE PHOTOS:**

**TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:** Riley (1881)

**TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:**

**ID COMMENTS:** *Eugnosta erigeronana* is distinctively marked with a contrasting two-toned appearance. The head, palps, thorax, and basal third of the forewing vary from white to sordid white and the antennae are light brown. The costa on the basal third often has a thin border of reddish-brown. The white coloration on the forewing contrasts sharply with a wide median blackish band that extends from the costa to the inner margin. The apical third typically has varying amounts of blackish to steel-blue and reddish brown mottling. This species has a distinctive hump-backed shape with the thorax and head curving downward. The apical two-thirds of the wing often have raised patches of scales that produce a coarsely granular appearance. The fringe is dark gray to brownish-black with a narrow blackish basal line, and the hindwing is grayish-brown with a concolorous fringe and a narrow black basal band.

**DISTRIBUTION:** *Eugnosta erigeronana* is found primarily in the southeastern US from North Carolina southward to southern Florida and westward to central Texas, central Oklahoma, eastern Missouri, western Kentucky, and southern Illinois. A few scattered records occur farther north in Indiana and Ohio. As of 2023, all of our records are from the Coastal Plain and eastern Piedmont.

**FLIGHT COMMENT:** The adults fly from February through October in Florida and mostly from April through September elsewhere. As of 2023, our records range from early May through early August.

**HABITAT:** The preferred habitats are poorly documented. We have records from residential neighborhoods, a xeric barrier island, and a Longleaf Pine community in the Sandhills that adjoined a wetland site.

**FOOD:** The only known rearing record is for an adult that was reared from a gall of a cecidomyiid fly that was growing on a fleabane (*Erigeron* sp.; Riley, 1881). It is uncertain if other hosts or modes of feeding occur.

**OBSERVATION METHODS:** The adults are attracted to lights.

**NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS:** GNR [S2S4]

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

**COMMENTS:** This species appears to be uncommon in North Carolina. More information is needed on its host use, preferred habitats, and distribution and abundance before we can accurately assess its conservation status.