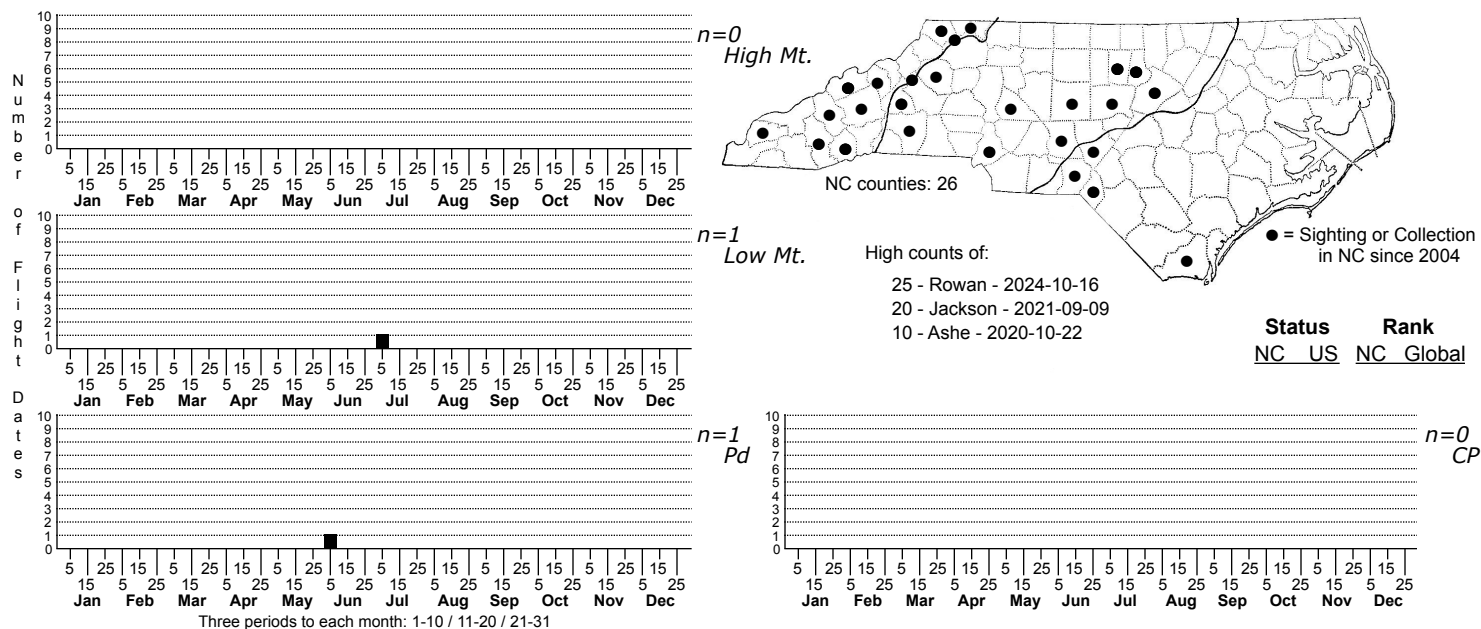


*Ectoedemia nyssaefoliella* No common name



FAMILY: Nepticulidae SUBFAMILY: Nepticulinae TRIBE: Trifurculini

TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS: This genus includes 15 Nearctic species of very small, leaf-mining moths.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Wilkinson and Newton (1981)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Braun, 1917; Eiseman, 2019.

ID COMMENTS: The following description of the adults is based on Braun (1917) and Wilkinson and Newton (1981). The tuft on the front of the head is ochreous, while that on the vertex is orange-ochreous. The palps are grayish, and the collar is pale ochre. The eye-cap is shining white and the antenna dark brown. The thorax and abdomen are dark brown to black, and the forewing is similarly colored, but with very faint bronze or purple reflections. In the middle of the wing is a shining silvery or pale golden fascia that varies from being either biconcave to slightly convex outwardly. The cilia around the apex is white to light grayish brown, with a marginal line of dark scales. The hindwing is pale gray. On the male, an oval patch of creamy white scales extends from the base to the middle of the dorsal surface, but is sometimes absent. The legs are dark brown above. *Ectoedemia nyssaefoliella* is generally darker and the fascia is narrower than that of *E. platanela* or other members of the *platanela* group (Wilkinson and Newton, 1981).

DISTRIBUTION: *Ectoedemia nyssaefoliella* occurs in the eastern North America from Illinois, southern Michigan and southern Ontario eastward to Vermont and Massachusetts, and southward to central Florida, although it is uncommon in the Atlantic Coastal Plain. The range extends westward through the Gulf States to eastern Texas, Arkansas, western Kentucky and western Indiana. As of 2024, we have records from the lower mountains, Piedmont and Coastal Plain, with relatively few in the latter.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Braun (1917) reported that there are two or three generations a year, and that the larvae of the first generation become full grown in June. As of 2024, we have records of occupied mines from late-May to late October, which is consistent with her observations in Kentucky and Ohio.

HABITAT: Local populations are strongly dependent on Black Gum for successful reproduction. This species occurs in a variety of mesic and dry forests such as oak-hickory forests and pine-oak-heath communities.

FOOD: The mines are primarily found on Black Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*), but we have a few records as of 2024 for Swamp Tupelo (*Nyssa biflora*).

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: The adults appear to rarely visit lights and most adult records are for reared individuals. Braun (1917) noted that this is one of the most abundant *Ectoedemia* species, and that moths are often abundant in the vicinity of Black Gum. The mines are distinctive and easy to spot on Black Gum leaves.

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 appears to be widespread and locally common in the western half of the state. Numerous local populations have been documented since 2015 based on mine records.