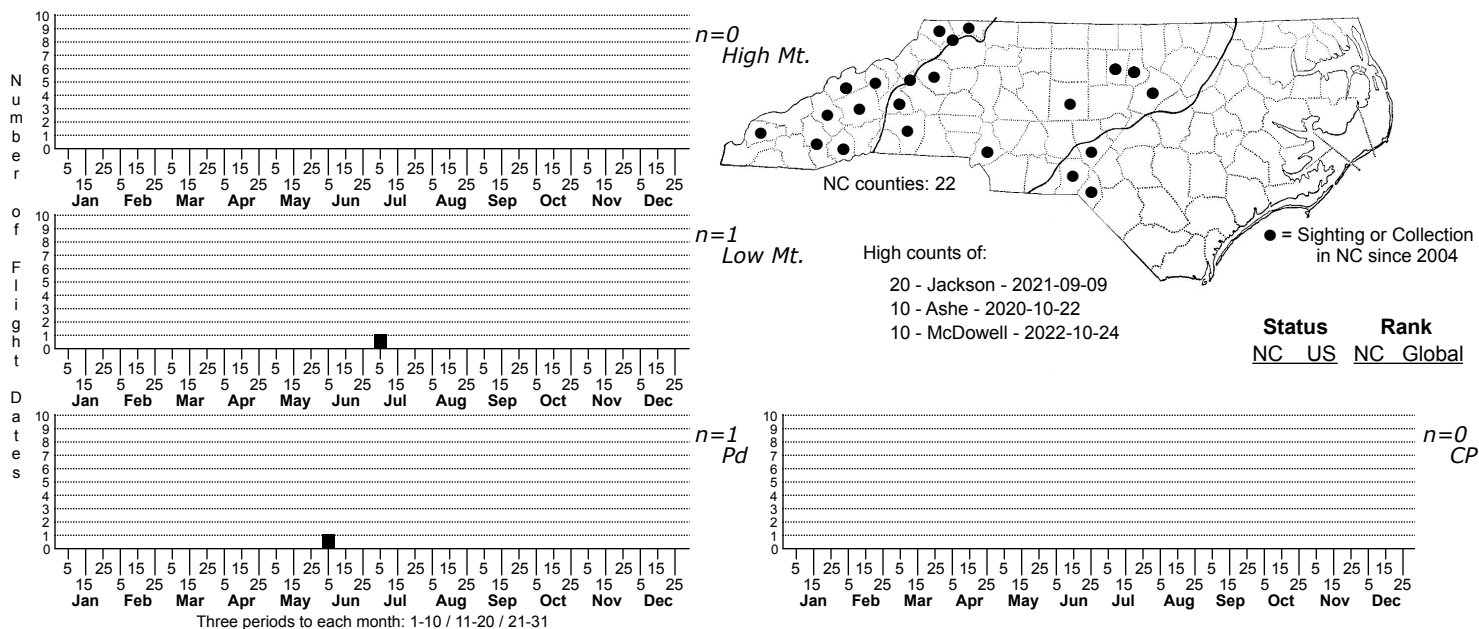


Ectoedemia nyssaefoliella No common name



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 Ohio and extreme southern Ontario eastward to Vermont and Massachusetts, and southward to Kentucky and North Carolina where the host plant occurs locally. Apparent disjunct populations are known from southern Mississippi and Arkansas. As of 2021, we have records from the lower mountains, Piedmont, and western Coastal Plain.

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 2021, we have records of occupied mines from June to late October.

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 almost always found on Black Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*); however, we have one record as of 2022 from 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.