

FAMILY: Nepticulidae SUBFAMILY: TRIBE:

TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: <i>Zimmermannia</i> is a genus that contains 17 currently recognized species, many of which were previously placed in the closely related genus <i>Ectoedemia</i>. Five species are currently recognized in the Nearctic region. In their revised classification and catalogue of global Nepticulidae, Nieukerken et al. (2016) recognized <i>Z. obrutella</i> i> as a new combination that involved the combining of three previously recognized species. These are <i>Ectoedemia. piperella</i> (Wilkinson and Newton, 1981) that was described from Arkansas, <i>E. reneella</i> (Wilkinson, 1981) that occurs in southern Florida, and <i>E. obrutella</i> (Zeller, 1873) that is more widespread in the eastern US.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: ONLINE PHOTOS: TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The following description is based primarily on Braun (1917) and Wilkinson and Newton (1981). The head is pale brown, the antenna fuscous, and the eye caps white. The tufts on the front of head and the vertex are orange-ochreous, and the collar is pale brown. The forewings is pale ocherous to yellow-cream, slightly iridescent, and dusted with coarse brown scales. The dark dusting is more pronounced towards the apex, least evident towards the base of the inner margin, and typically more dense in the male than in the female. The costa often has black scales that are concentrated for a short distance from the base, particularly in the male. The cilia are pale yellowish gray, with a marginal row of dark scales. The underside of the forewing is darker than the hindwing, which is pale grayish, with paler more yellowish cilia. The legs are pale ocherous and the abdomen gray, with a yellowish anal tuft. Populations in southern Florida (previously recognized as <i>Ectoedemia reneella</i>) are totally white or buff with little or no dark dusting.

DISTRIBUTION: Widely scattered populations have been found through much of the eastern US from Maine to as far west as Arkansas and as far south as southern Florida.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Specimens have been found from March-August in different regions of the eastern US. As of 2020, our one state record was from mid-May.

HABITAT: The habitat is largely unknown. Our one record is from a young, second-growth hardwood forest.

FOOD: The host species have never been discovered.

OBSERVATION METHODS: Specimens occasionally visit lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR SU

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: