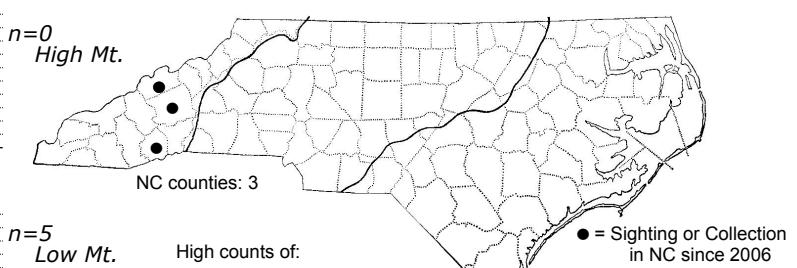
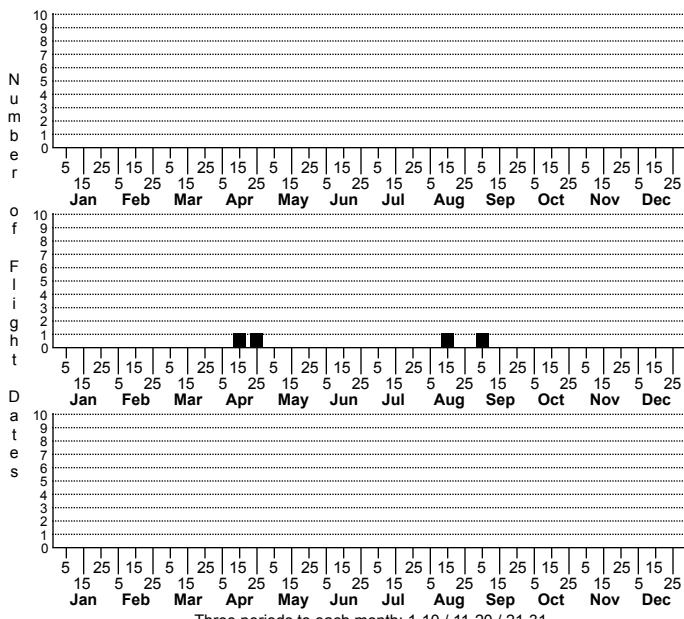
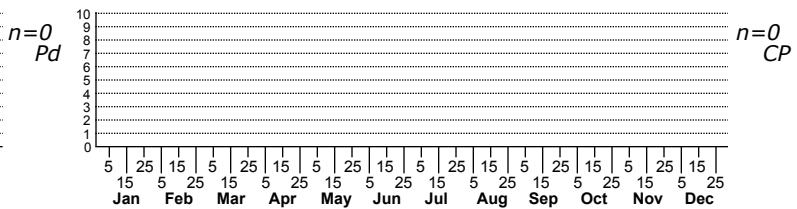


Bucculatrix packardella None



High counts of:
 1 - Madison - 2022-04-22
 1 - Madison - 2024-04-14
 1 - Madison - 2024-09-06

Status Rank
 NC US NC Global



Three periods to each month: 1-10 / 11-20 / 21-31

FAMILY: Bucculatricidae SUBFAMILY: TRIBE:

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Braun (1963)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Braun (1963)

ID COMMENTS: This is a tiny moth with an orangish forewing that has diffuse, white bands, heavy dark speckling and a dark apical spot. It resembles some of our other *Bucculatrix*, but can be distinguished by having the face and antennal eye-caps speckled with darker marks. The following detailed description is mostly based on that of Braun (1963) from the type series from Ohio.

The face is creamy white with minute brown speckling, while the head tuft hairs are whitish towards the base and brownish towards the apex. The eye-cap is white with minute brown speckling, and the antennal stalk is pale with dark-brown annulations. The thorax is white with brown specks. The ground color of the forewing is creamy white, with the color in the basal half somewhat obscured by the fine dusting of brown-tipped scales. Pale golden-brown or orange-tinged scales predominate on the apical half of the wing and contrast to some extent with the paler basal half of the wing. Orangish scales also border portions of the costa and may form an orange streak along the fold. Overall, the forewing appears to have two oblique, diffuse, parallel white streaks. The first extends from just beyond the middle of the costa to the sub-tornal region of the inner margin, while the second begins at around three-fourths and ends at or near the tornus. An indistinct whitish spot is present before the apex that is followed by a more prominent dark spot (often reduced to a few dark scales in North Carolina specimens). A patch of raised dark-brown to blackish scales is present near the middle of the inner margin, and a partial or complete line of dark-tipped scales occurs in the middle of the cilia and curves around the apex. The hindwing and cilia are a pale straw-color, while the legs are pale straw-colored, with the tarsal segments often dark-tipped.

Bucculatrix packardella generally resembles *B. luteella* and *B. recognita*. It can be distinguished from the former by the dark apical spot and dark ciliary line, and from the latter by the absence of a well-defined, oblique whitish streak (fascia) at the basal third of the forewing. In addition, neither species has dark speckling on the face and antennal eye-caps, which is diagnostic for *B. packardella*. Braun (1963) also noted that *B. packardella* has a pure white, finely ridged cocoon, with 10-12 ridges, while the other two species have similar cocoons, but with fewer ridges. All three species have distinctive genitalia.

DISTRIBUTION: *Bucculatrix packardella* is found in eastern North America where it has been found in southern Canada (Ontario; Quebec), and in coastal areas of the US from Maine southward to Rhode Island. It has also been found at widely scattered sites in Nebraska, Michigan, Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, the District of Columbia and North Carolina. As of 2025, we have only three site records and all are from the Blue Ridge where this species possibly reaches its southern limits.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Local populations are multivoltine in Ohio, where the adults have been found from March through the fall months (Braun, 1963). As of 2025, our records are from April, August and September, which suggests this species is also multivoltine in North Carolina.

HABITAT: Local populations are generally associated with hardwood forests with oaks.

FOOD: The larvae feed on various species of oaks, and possibly American Beech (*Fagus americanus*) on occasion, and perhaps only opportunistically (Braun, 1963; Priest et al., 2019; Eiseman, 2022). The reported hosts include Northern Red Oak (*Q. rubra*) and Shumard Oak (*Q. shumardii*), but other oaks are presumably used. There is one museum record of an adult from chestnut, but it is uncertain if the larvae fed on the leaves, or simply settled there to pupate. In North Carolina, Jeff Niznik reared an adult from a pupal cocoon that was on an oak.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights and the white cocoons can be found on the undersides of oak leaves.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR SNR [S1S2]

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: *Bucculatrix packardella* appears to reach its southern range limit in the Blue Ridge of North Carolina, where it is rare or uncommon. Populations in North Carolina may represent a southern disjunct, with the nearest known populations as of 2025 from southwestern Ohio and Pennsylvania.