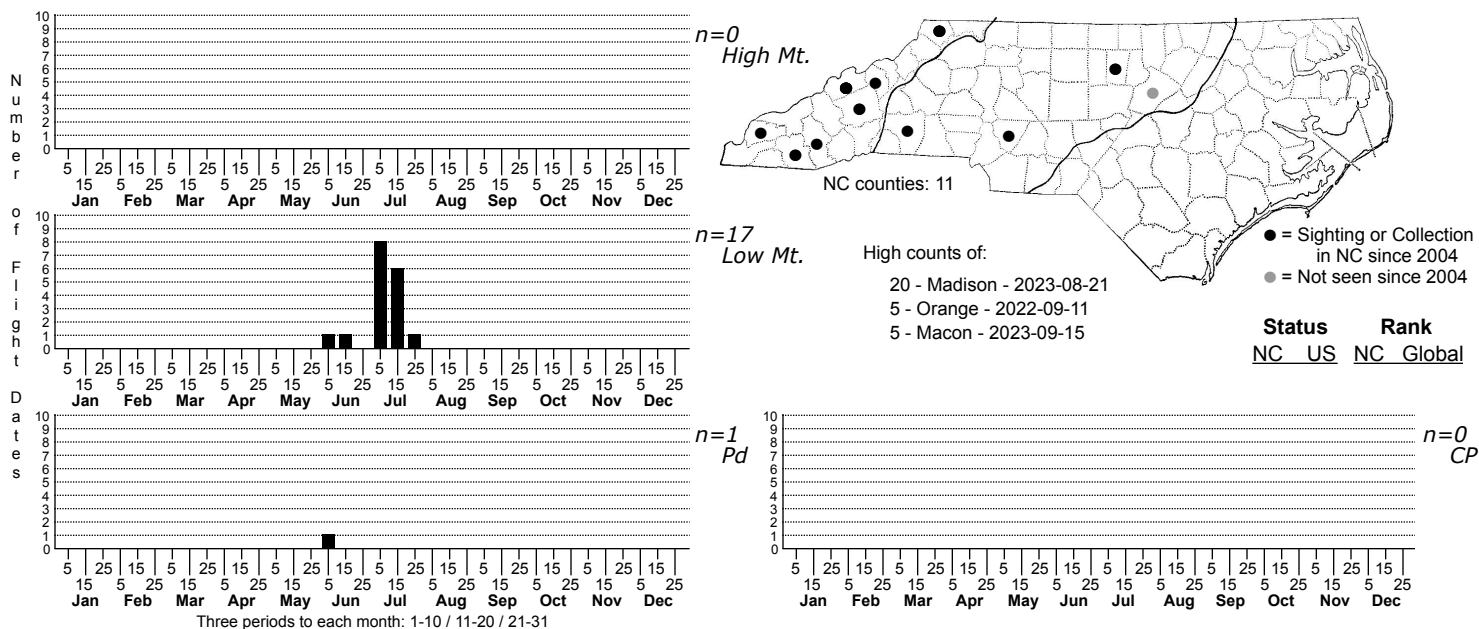


## *Dysodia oculatana* Eyed Dysodia Moth



FAMILY: Thyrididae SUBFAMILY: Thyridinae TRIBE:  
 TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Clemens (1860c).

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Clemens (1860c).

ID COMMENTS: This is a rather distinctive species with the most conspicuous mark being a large, silvery-white patch on the hindwing that resembles a bicuspid tooth. The head, palps and thorax have varying shades of brownish-yellow scales. The ground of the forewing is light brownish-yellow with fine dark brown lines that produces a reticulated or finely striated pattern. The ground is typically overlain with three dark brown, irregular bands. The most prominent is a wide band just beyond the middle of the wing that extends from the inner margin to the costa. It either forks or broadly widens just before reaching the costa, and is followed by a narrower band in the sub-terminal region. A third and more outwardly curved band is found in the sub-median region. Individuals vary in the degree of development of the bands, and in some cases they may be absent or poorly developed. A small, whitish, discal spot is present that often adjoins the median band.

The hindwing has a similar light brownish-yellow ground color that is finely reticulated. Two darker bands are usually evident in the median and subterminal region. These vary in their shape and degree of development, and in some individuals may be fused into a single broad band, or be only partially formed and appear as a dark blotch that extends from the inner margin to the white tooth mark. Both wings are terminally angulated, and individuals normally rest with the forewings spread so that the prominent tooth mark on the hindwing is exposed.

DISTRIBUTION: *Dysodia oculatana* is broadly distributed across the eastern US from Massachusetts and New York westward to Wisconsin and eastern Nebraska and southward to southern Texas eastward to northern Florida. As of 2023, our records are all from the Blue Ridge and Piedmont.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been documented from April-October in the eastern US, with a peak typically from June through August. As of 2023, all of our records are from June and July. Clemens (1860c) noted that there are two broods, with the adults first appearing in June and July, then later in the Fall. The fall brood appears to overwinter (presumably as pupae in the soil), with the adults emerging after the spring warm-up. Our very limited data as of 2023 only provide weak support for two broods in North Carolina.

HABITAT: Local populations are associated with opens woods, forest edges, and semi-shaded roadsides.

FOOD: The larvae appear to be polyphagous, with records from both composites and legumes (Clemens, 1860; Covell, 1984; Godfrey et al., 1987; Heppner, 2007; Robinson et al., 2012). The reported hosts include White Snakeroot (*Ageratina altissima*), *Eutrochium* spp., American Bugleweed (*Lycopus americanus*), wild beans (*Phaseolus*), White-flowered Leafcup (*Polymnia canadensis*) and Wingstem (*Verbesina alternifolia*). In North Carolina, we have records for Hollow Joe-pye-weed (*Eutrochium fistulosum*), Sweet Joe-pye-weed (*E. purpureum*), Hairy Leafcup (*Smallanthus uvedalia*), Wingstem, and Yellow Crownbeard (*Verbesina occidentalis*).

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: The adults are active during the day and are often seen nectaring on milkweeds and other wildflowers. The larvae produce conspicuous dangling leaf rolls on *Smallanthus*, *Verbesina* and other species with broad leaves.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS:

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

COMMENTS: