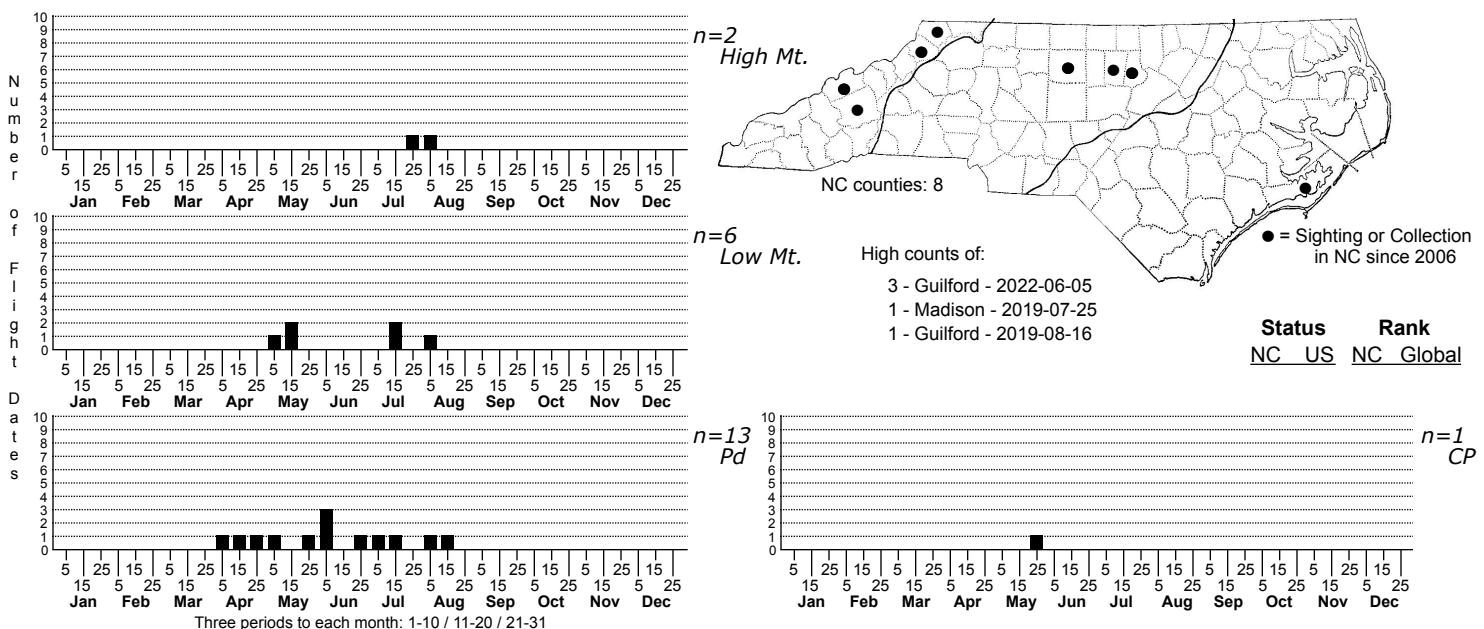


## *Caloptilia packardella* None



FAMILY: Gracillariidae SUBFAMILY: Gracillariinae TRIBE: [Gracillariini]

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: <i>Caloptilia</i> is a large genus with nearly 300 described species; 64 species have been described in North America north of Mexico. The larvae begin as leaf-mining sap-feeders, but the latter instars usually exit the mines and feed within a conical roll that begins at the leaf apex or at the tip of a leaf lobe.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Chambers 1872; Forbes, 1923.

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The ground color of the forewings varies from light orange to darker shades of orangish brown. The most distinctive feature of this species is a large, yellowish golden, equilateral triangular patch on the forewing that reaches nearly to the inner margin. The base of the wing, upper thorax, upper head and cilia are shaded with pale golden coloration. The face and palps are white, except for the joints of the palps that are tipped with golden coloration. Some specimens also exhibit a narrow yellowish-golden band that extends along the costa from the triangular patch to just before the apex (Chambers 1872; Forbes, 1923).

DISTRIBUTION: <i>Caloptilia packardella</i> ranges from the Great Lakes region, the northeastern US, and adjoining areas of southern Canada, south and southwestward to Kentucky, eastern Tennessee, North Carolina and South Carolina. As of 2019, we have records from only three counties in NC, including one from the Blue Ridge and two from Piedmont counties.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The flight season is poorly documented in North Carolina, with limited adult records from only July and August.

HABITAT:

FOOD: Sugar Maple (<i>A. saccharum</i>) is the primary native host species in eastern North America. Females also oviposit on Norway Maple (<i>A. platanoides</i>), which is an invasive species in the eastern US and in western North Carolina. Tracy Feldman found leaf mines on Florida Maple (<i>A. floridanum</i>) in Wake County, which suggests that this species may be the primary host for populations that occur east of the Blue Ridge.

OBSERVATION METHODS: This species is attracted to UV lights. Local populations are perhaps best documented by finding the rolled, conical feeding shelters on Sugar Maple and Florida Maple and rearing the adults.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S2S4

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

COMMENTS: