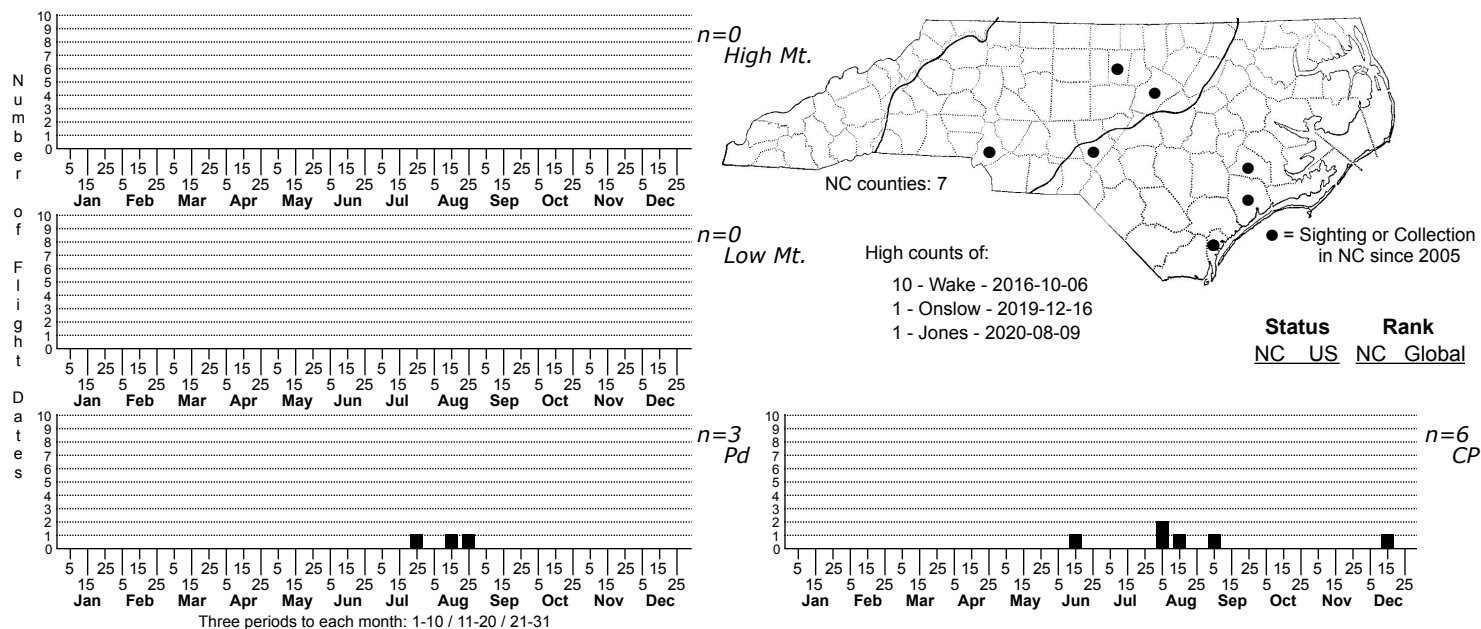


## *Caloptilia triadicae* Chinese Tallow Leafminer Moth



FAMILY: Gracillariidae SUBFAMILY: Gracillariinae TRIBE:

TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS: This species was only recently described by Davis et al. (2013).

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: (Davis et al., 2013)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: (Davis et al., 2013)

ID COMMENTS: This species has distinctive markings that readily distinguish it from our native *Caloptilia*. The forewing has two slightly oblique whitish stripes that begin near the costa and a third oblique stripe that begins near the hind margin. These sharply contrast with the overall brown to dark-brown ground color.

DISTRIBUTION: This species is now widely distributed throughout the southeastern US where populations of the host species occur. As of 2020, we have four records for the state from both the Piedmont and the Coastal Plain.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Populations in the southernmost populations tend to be active year-round, with little evidence of a winter dormant period ((Davis et al., 2013). The species is multivoltine and populations tend to increase locally as the growing season progresses.

HABITAT: This species is monophagous on Chinese Tallow-tree, which is an introduced species that has a tendency to become invasive. This species is often seen in moist to wet habitats that are sunny to partly shaded. Representative habitats include the margins of ponds, lakes, and marshes, and along roadsides, the edges of agricultural fields, forests, and canals.

FOOD: Larvae feed on Chinese Tallow-tree (*Triadica sebifera*) (Eiseman, 2022), which is the only host in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: Adults are attracted to UV-lights, and the leaf mines and rolled leaves are conspicuous on *Triadica sebifera*.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [SNA]

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: We have no conservation concerns about this species since it is introduced and restricts its feeding on a host plant that is also introduced. *Caloptilia triadicae* may prove to be beneficial in helping to control Chinese Tallow-tree, which is invasive in many areas of the Southeast.