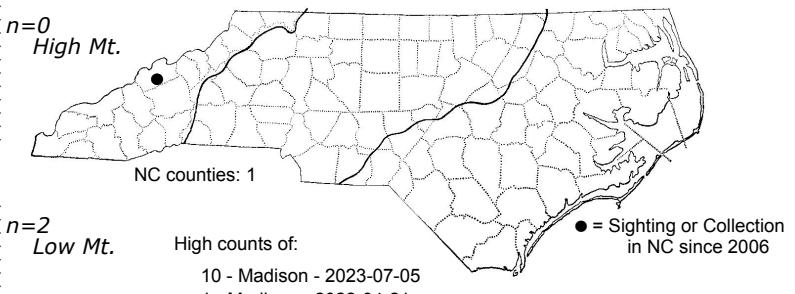
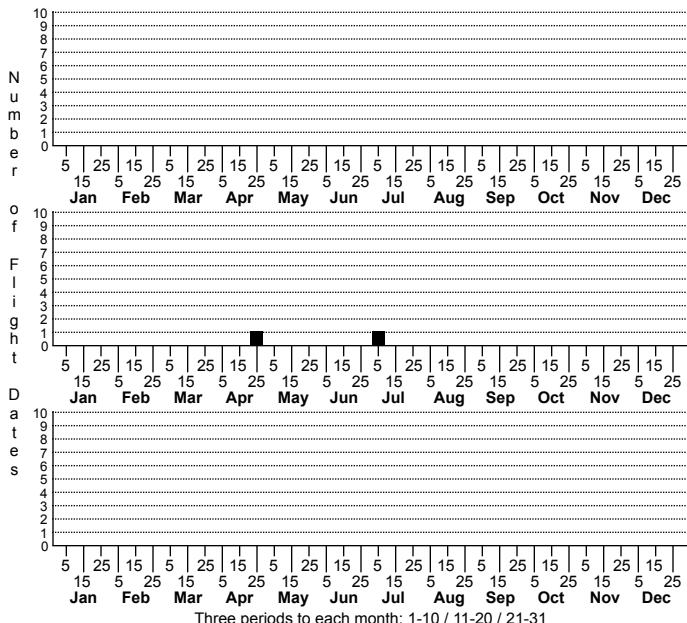


Parornix obliterella None



Status	Rank		
NC	US	NC	Global

n=0
CP

FAMILY: Gracillariidae SUBFAMILY: Parornichinae TRIBE:
TAXONOMIC COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Dietz (1907)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Eiseman (2022)

ID COMMENTS: Like our other *Parornix* species, *P. obliterella* has a rough-haired head with two large tufts on the vertex that project forward. The antennae are as long as the forewing, and the labial palps are smooth-scaled, curved and more-or-less ascending. In *P. obliterella* the entire palp is mostly or entirely white, including the third segment that is white or sometimes inconspicuously spotted with fuscous. The thorax is mostly white, but edged with fuscous anteriorly. The head is yellowish-white, with the tufts having brownish scales intermixed with the lighter scales. The forewing has a purplish-brown ground color with 5-6 white costal striae, with the 4th and 5th from the apex more widely spaced than the others (Dietz, 1907; Eiseman, 2022). The inner margin has three white spots on the basal two-thirds of the wing, with the middle spot substantially larger than the other two and interconnected to the first by a narrow neck. The region between the spots has darker scales than those of the general ground color on the forewing. The fringe is white with two dark lines, with the outermost one at the tip of the fringe.

Parornix obliterella can be separated from our other *Parornix* species by the white labial palps, the widely spaced 4th and 5th costal striae, and the second dark ciliary line that extends to the outer margin of the fringe.

DISTRIBUTION: *Parornix obliterella* is found in eastern North America and mostly at northern latitudes. Specimens have been documented in southern Canada (Ontario; Quebec) and in the US from Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts and Rhode Island westward through New York and Pennsylvania to southern Ontario. Specimens have also been documented in eastern Kentucky and in western North Carolina that may be geographic isolates from the main range farther north. As of 2025, our only records are from a single lower-elevation site in Madison County.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been found from May through September in different areas of the range, with a seasonal peak in June through August. As of 2025, our records

HABITAT:

FOOD: The larvae feed on birches, with Yellow Birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*) and Sweet Birch (*B. lenta*) being known host (Eiseman, 2022). Our only host record for North Carolina as of 2025 is for Sweet Birch (*B. lenta*).

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights and the larvae can be found in tentiform mines and leaf folds on native birches.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S1]

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: This species is mostly found at northern latitudes and the one known site record for North Carolina may be part of a disjunct isolate in the southern Appalachians.