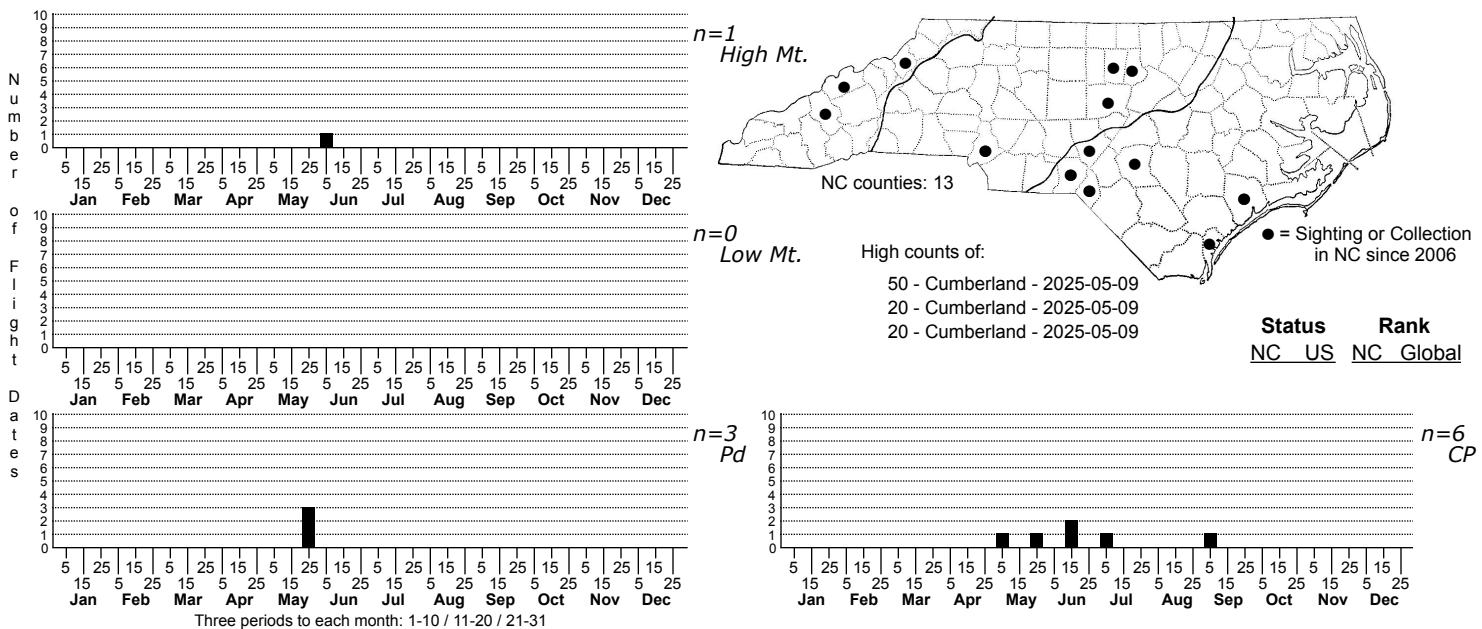


# *Acrocercops albinatella* None



FAMILY: Gracillariidae SUBFAMILY: Acrocercopinae TRIBE:

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: The genus *Acrocercops* includes six recognized species in North America. Four of these are misapplied, but the correct genus to assign them to has not been determined. The adults of most species are rather boldly marked, and the larvae are leaf miners that produce linear blotch mines.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes, 1923.

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: This species has strongly contrasting white and light brown patterning. The face, palpi, head, and thorax are silvery white and the forewing ground color is light brown. The silvery white central band on the thorax continues as a band of variable width on the inner margin of the wing, but is interrupted by projections of the brown area to create two large, silvery patches. The band markedly narrows between the second (median) patch and the anal angle. Three white, oblique costal streaks project towards the white band on the inner margin. The first usually joins the large basal patch, while the others are curved and tapered, and do not reach the band along the inner margin. There is also a white apical spot that is edged with a black crescent near the wing tip. Individuals characteristically rest with the front of the body raised well above the surface of the substrate.

DISTRIBUTION: *Acrocercops albinatella* is widely distributed in eastern North America from southern Ontario, southern Quebec, and the northeastern US, southward to Florida and westward to Missouri. As of 2023, we have scattered records from throughout the state.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Adults emerge with the spring warm-up and can be found as early as February and March in Florida (Cornelissen and Stiling, 2006) and April and June in New York (Forbes, 1923). Our limited records for North Carolina are from May-September. There are two or more broods per year.

HABITAT: This species feeds on a large number of oak species that occupy habitats that range from bottomland forests to xeric oak communities in the Sandhills.

FOOD: The larvae mine oak leaves (Eiseman, 2019). Host species that are used in the eastern US include White Oak (*Quercus alba*), Bear Oak (*Q. ilicifolia*), Florida Scrub Oak (*Q. inopina*), Turkey Oak (*Q. laevis*), Laurel Oak (*Q. laurifolia*), Blackjack Oak (*Q. marilandica*), Dwarf Live Oak (*Q. minima*), Myrtle Oak (*Q. myrtifolia*), Water Oak (*Q. nigra*), Pin Oak (*Q. palustris*), Northern Red Oak (*Q. rubra*), Post Oak (*Q. stellata*) and Black Oak (*Q. velutina*). In North Carolina, we have leaf mine records for Blackjack Oak, Northern Red Oak, Turkey Oak, Water Oak, Black Oak, Cherrybark Oak (*Q. pagoda*), Southern Red Oak (*Q. falcata*), Pin Oak, and Willow Oak (*Q. phellos*).

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults occasionally visit lights and the larvae produce conspicuous blotch mines on the undersides of oak leaves. Collecting active mines and rearing adults may be the most effective way to obtain new adult records.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S2S4

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS:  
March 2026

The Moths of North Carolina - Early Draft