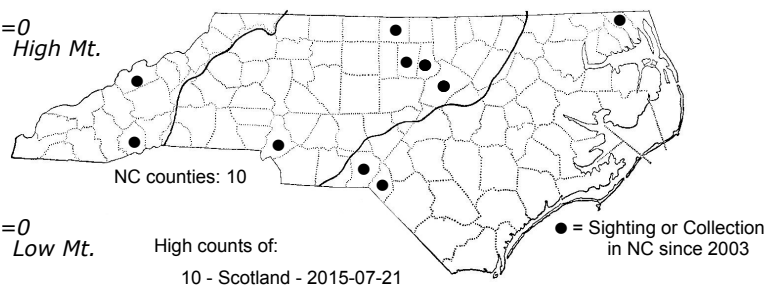
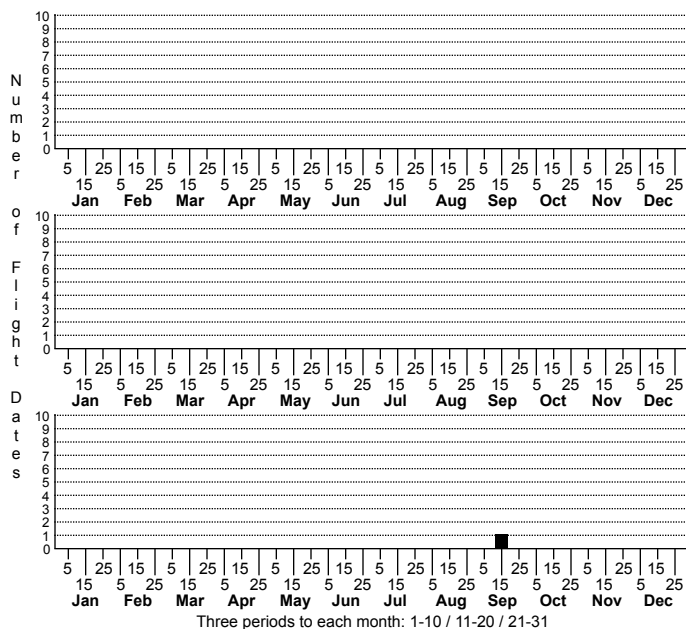
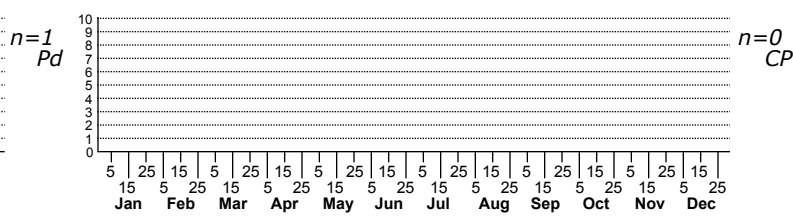


*Stigmella intermedia* No common name



High counts of:  
 10 - Scotland - 2015-07-21  
 10 - Richmond - 2022-08-28  
 5 - Wake - 2018-06-22

Status	Rank
NC	US
NC	Global



FAMILY: Nepticulidae SUBFAMILY: Nepticulinae TRIBE: Nepticulini

TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS: Members of the genus *Stigmella* are a group of small leaf-mining moths that typically create linear mines, although a few species form linear-blotch or blotch mines. Newton and Wilkinson (1982) recognized 51 species in their revision on the North American fauna, and new discoveries have since raised the total to around 57 species. Almost all species are specialists and rarely use more than one genus of host plants. Host-specificity, mine characteristics, and genitalic differences are helpful in recognizing closely related forms that are externally similar.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Newton and Wilkinson (1982)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Braun, 1917.

ID COMMENTS: The following description of the adults is based on Braun (1917) and Wilkinson and Scoble (1979). The palps are off-white and lustrous, and the antennae are slate gray and lustrous. The head and tuft are very dark brown to black, and the eye-caps are silvery white. The thorax is gray with silver and bronzy reflections. The ground color of the forewings is brownish black, and there are two white fasciae that shine silvery to light golden. The first fascia is sub-basal and often inconspicuous unless it is illuminated with the appropriate angle of light. The second is at about two-thirds the wing length and is conspicuous. The cilia is gray. The legs are gray and lustrous, and pale at the tarsi. This species is very closely related to *S. rhofoliella*, but has two fasciae on the forewing rather than a single fascia. The dark tuft will distinguish *S. intermedia* from *S. prunifoliella*, which has an orangish tuft.

DISTRIBUTION: *Stigmella intermedia* occurs in the eastern US from Ohio eastward to Vermont, Connecticut, and Massachusetts, and southward to Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Mississippi, and Alabama. Populations in Canada, South Dakota, and Colorado appear to be genetically distinct, but are currently included within *S. intermedia* (Eiseman, 2019). As of 2020, our records are from the Coastal Plain and eastern Piedmont.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Braun (1917) noted that there are usually two generations a year in southern Ohio, but occasionally three. The larvae that mature in July overwinter.

HABITAT: This species is a specialist on sumacs (*Rhus* spp.), which are often found in rather open, sunny, habitats such as fencerows, roadsides, and recently abandoned fields. Sumacs also occur in natural habitats such as open woods, maritime forests, and rock outcrop communities.

FOOD: The larvae feed on sumacs (Robinson et al., 2010), including Fragrant Sumac (*Rhus aromatica*), Winged Sumac (*R. copallinum*), Smooth Sumac (*R. glabra*), and Staghorn Sumac (*R. typhina*). As of 2022, all of our North Carolina records are from *R. copallinum*.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: The adults appear to rarely visit lights and almost all records are based on either leaf mines, or adults that were reared from mines.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S3S4

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

COMMENTS: This species may be more common than our small number of records suggest because of minimal collecting effort within the state.