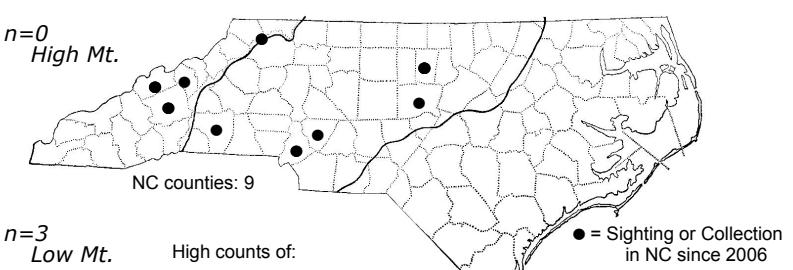
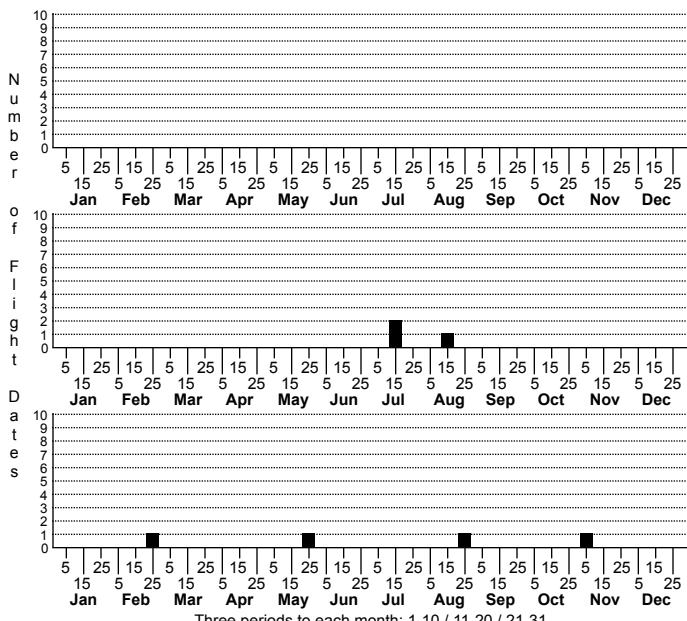


Cremastobombycia ignota None



High counts of:
 20 - Madison - 2020-07-13
 20 - Orange - 2021-09-29
 20 - Madison - 2025-10-11

Status **Rank**
 NC US NC Global

FAMILY: Gracillariidae **SUBFAMILY:** Lithocolletinae **TRIBE:**
TAXONOMIC COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Braun, 1908.

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Braun, 1908.

ID COMMENTS: The following description of the adults is based primarily on Braun (1908). The antenna is brownish gray with darker annulations. The head tuft is reddish saffron and intermixed with white. The ground color of the thorax and forewing is deep reddish saffron. A fine white line extends along each side of the thorax, then continues as an indistinct and short basal silvery streak. At the basal fourth of the wing is an oblique silvery costal streak with a black margin that is most pronounced on the posterior edge. At the middle of the wing is a silvery fascia, varying from nearly straight to acutely angled. In the former case the fascia tends to be relatively broad and strongly margined posteriorly with black. Black scaling is also often evident on the anterior edge near the costal half. In those specimens having a distinctly angulated fascia, the fascia tends to be narrower, and sometimes interrupted at the angle. The posterior black margin is often less distinct, and the dark margin on the anterior edge is reduced or missing. At the apical third are two opposite, perpendicularly placed, silvery streaks. These are strongly black margined posteriorly, and less so anteriorly. Just before the apex is an outwardly concave silvery costal streak with a black posterior margin. This streak can sometimes extend to the dorsal margin. The cilia is slightly paler than the wing ground color. The hindwings and cilia are brownish gray, while the legs are fuscous with black and white bands on the tarsi.

DISTRIBUTION: The range of *Cremastobombycia ignota* is rather poorly documented, but scattered populations have been found from Maine and vicinity westward to Iowa and Oklahoma. Populations extend from Maine south and southwestward to Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina and Texas. In North Carolina, our limited records as of 2020 are from the lower mountains and the eastern Piedmont.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT:

FOOD: *Cremastobombycia ignota* feeds on several members of the Asteraceae. The most common hosts appear to be species of *Verbesina*, including *V. alternifolia*, *V. occidentalis*, and *V. virginica*. Other known hosts include *Elephantopus carolinianus*, *Helianthus giganteus*, and *Rudbeckia hirta* (Braun, 1908; Eiseman, 2019). In North Carolina, all of our records as of 2024 are from Wingstem (*Verbesina alternifolia*) and Yellow Crownbeard (*V. occidentalis*).

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults appear to rarely visit lights, and are best obtained by rearing them from mines. The mines are rather conspicuous on Verbesina; we recommend searching for them during the summer months.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS:

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: As of 2020, we have only a few records for this species in the state, and all are based on leaf mines or adults raised from mines. The species is probably locally common and widespread in North Carolina, but poorly documented as is the case for many leafminers.