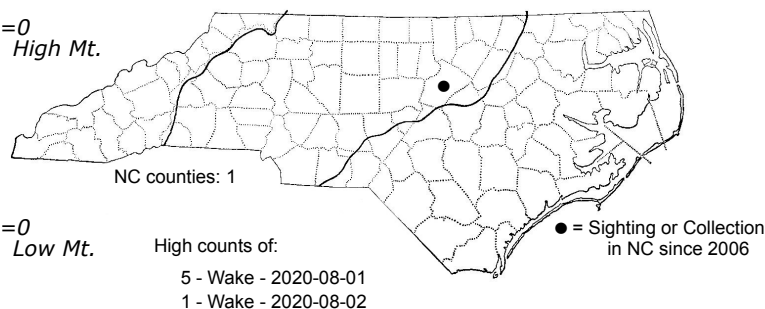
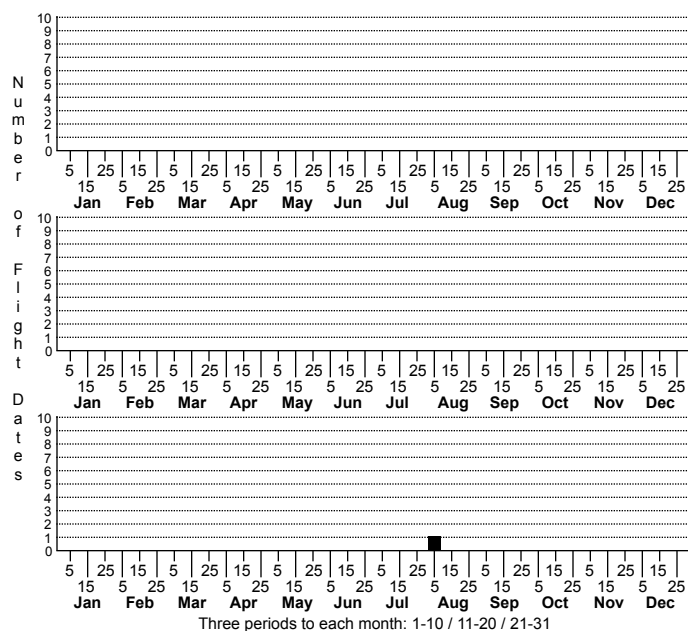
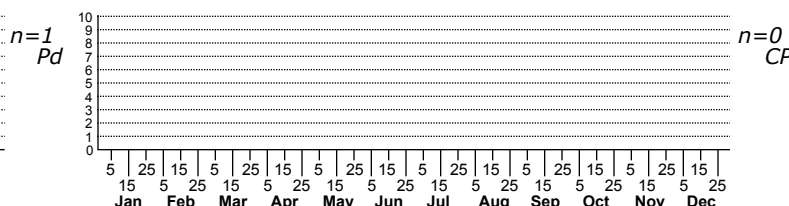


Phyllonorycter auronitens None



Status		Rank	
NC	US	NC	Global



FAMILY: Gracillariidae SUBFAMILY: Lithocolletinae TRIBE: [Lithocolletini]
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Braun, 1908

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Braun, 1908

ID COMMENTS: The following description is based primarily of the description in Braun (1908). The head is saffron brown and the face lighter. The antenna is light brown with dark annulations, and the apex is whitish. The thorax and ground of the forewing are shining saffron and rather light. The legs are yellowish gray and unspotted, while the abdomen is dark gray. The marks of the forewings have a strong metallic silvery white luster. These include a very indistinct short basal streak, four pairs of streaks along the wing, and a dark spot with a few silvery white scales at the apex. The first costal streak is at the basal fourth of the wing and is very long and oblique. It curved posteriorly and is dark margined on both sides. The corresponding dorsal streak resembles a spot, is nearer the base relative to the costal streak, and is scarcely dark margined. The second pair of streaks occur at one-half the wing length and consists of two tall, narrow, triangular marks that are somewhat dark margined internally. Their apices usually do not unite to form a complete fascia. The third pair of marks are at three-fourths and are very similar to the preceding pair, but are smaller and the gap between the apices is greater. The fourth pair of markings occur just before the apex and are further reduced in size. The small costal streak may have a few dark scales on the anterior margin. At the apex there is a black dot that is overlaid with a few silvery metallic scales. The cilia are light and a dark curved line extends through them at the apex. The hindwing and cilia are gray.

DISTRIBUTION: *Phyllonorycter auronitens* occurs in eastern North America. There are scattered records from Ontario, Quebec, Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Kentucky, and North Carolina. As of 2021, we have a single record from Wake Co. in the eastern Piedmont.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The flight season is poorly documented, with records from outside of North Carolina extending from April through July. As of 2021, our one adult record is from 2 August.

HABITAT: This species specializes on alders and presumably uses Hazel Alder in North Carolina. This species is found in wetlands statewide and occurs in and around marshes, fens, swamps, alluvial bottomlands, pond margins, seepages and streams.

FOOD: The known hosts include Gray Alder (*Alnus incana*) at northern latitudes and Hazel Alder (*A. serrulata*) throughout much of the range, including North Carolina. Our only rearing record is for Hazel Alder.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults appear to only rarely visit lights and most records are based on reared adults. We recommend searching for the leaf mines on the undersides of alders during the late summer and early autumn months.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR SU

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

COMMENTS: We have only one record for this species as of 2021. It appears to be uncommon or rare within the state where it is at its southernmost range limit. Additional information is needed on this species distribution and abundance before we can assess its conservation status.