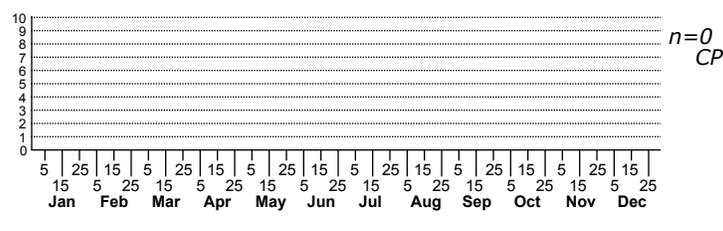
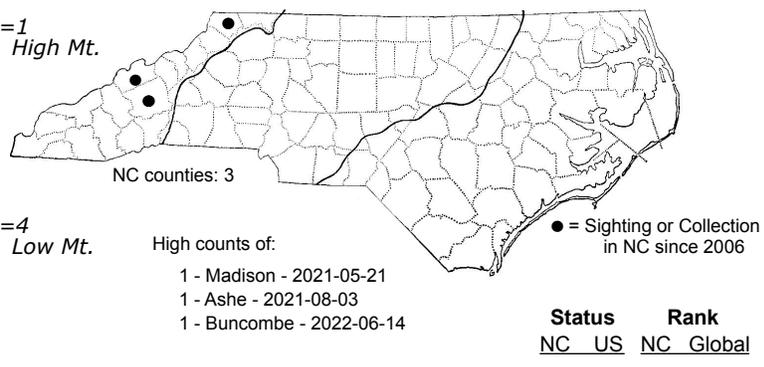
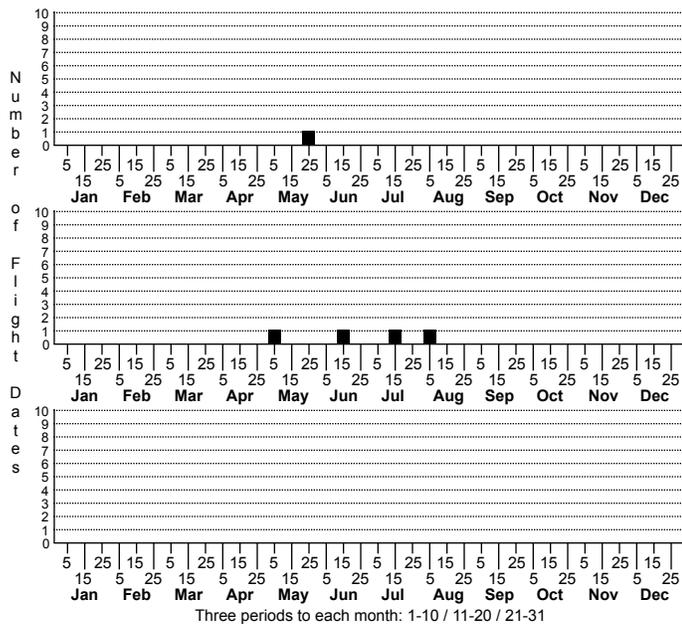


Phyllonorycter tiliacella Basswood Round-blotch Miner Moth



FAMILY: Gracillariidae SUBFAMILY: Lithocolletinae TRIBE:
 TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Braun (1908)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Eiseman (2022)

ID COMMENTS: *Phyllonorycter tiliacella* is an easily recognized species that has a glistening, snowy-white head and thorax. The forewing has a pale-golden ground color that has three equally-spaced, silvery-white, angulated fasciae that are boldly margined with black scales on the anterior margin. The first fascia is complete, while the middle and distal fasciae are interrupted on the costal half, with the gap of the latter greater than that on the middle fascia. The fringe is tinged with light-golden coloration, and the legs are mostly light golden-brown.

DISTRIBUTION: *Phyllonorycter tiliacella* is mostly found at northern latitudes in the eastern US and adjoining areas of southern Ontario and Quebec. In the US, the range extends from Maine and the New England states southward to New Jersey and Maryland, and westward through New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio to Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota. Populations have recently been documented in the southern Appalachians in the Blue Ridge of North Carolina and an adjoining area of southeastern Tennessee. These appear to be disjunct from the main range to the north. As of 2025, our records are all from mid- to higher-elevation sites in the Blue Ridge.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been observed from March through September in different areas of the range. As of 2025, our records extend from early-May through early-August. Local populations appear to be bivoltine, with the first brood appearing in June or July in most areas of the range.

HABITAT: This species is found in rich, mesic forests where American Basswood is present.

FOOD: The larvae appear to specialize on American Basswood (*Tilia americana*; Eiseman, 2022), which is consistent with our observations in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights and the leaf mines can be found on American Basswood during the summer months.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S1S3

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: North Carolina populations appear to be highly disjunct from those in the main range that is in southern Canada and the northern US. As of 2024, we have only four site records and all are from the Blue Ridge.