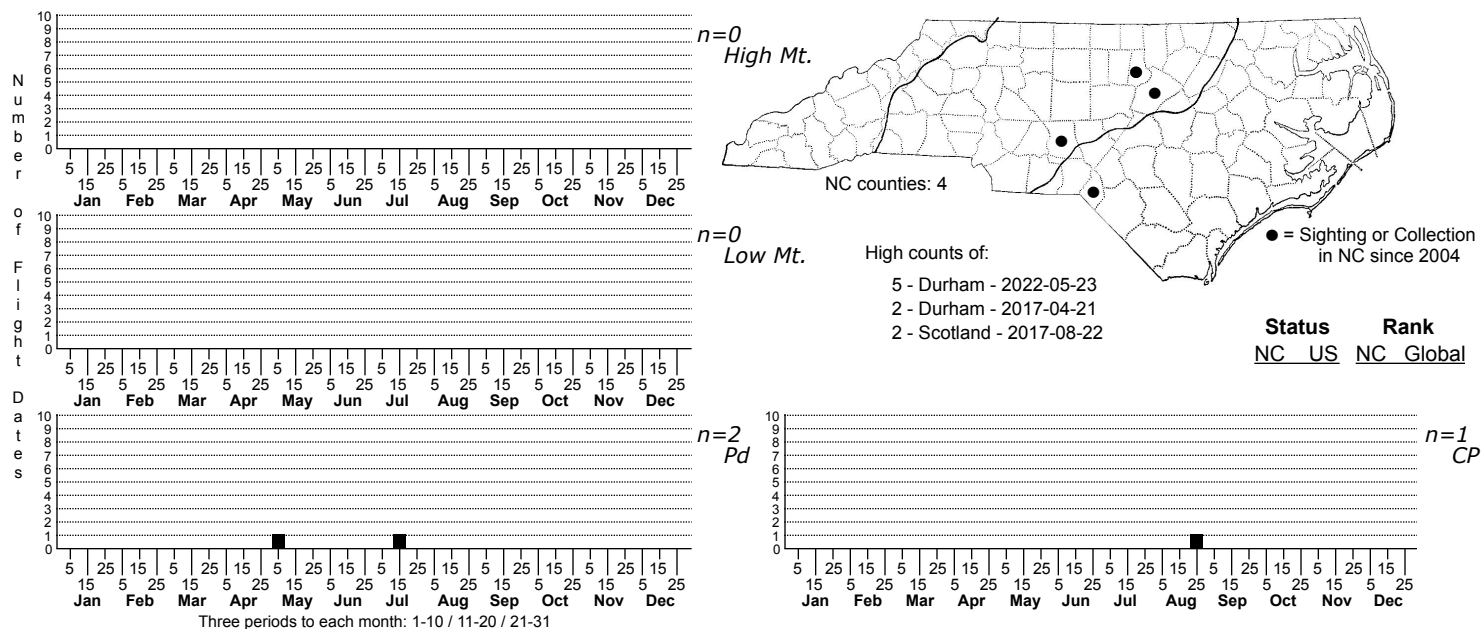


*Phyllonorycter trinotella* Red Maple Blotchminer



FAMILY: Gracillariidae SUBFAMILY: Lithocolletinae TRIBE:

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: *Phyllonorycter* is a genus of small and often colorful moths, with 79 described species in North America. The larvae of most form underside tentiform mines on woody plants and pupate within the mines.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Braun, 1908.

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The following description is based on Braun (1908). The palps, face, tuft and antennae are glistening snowy white, and the antennae are faintly annulated above with ochereous. The thorax and basal two-thirds of the forewings are glistening white, but somewhat suffused with yellow below the fold. The apical third of the wings is pale golden. A pale golden-brown basal streak begins on the costa, then progressively angles away from the costa as it extends posteriorly towards the middle of the wing and fades away. In the apical portion there are two white, wedge-shaped streaks along the costa. There is a similar dorsal streak just before the tornus and opposite the first costal streak. All of the streaks are internally margined with dark scales. Some specimens may show evidence of a third white costal streak, which is often obscure and unmarginated, and an indistinct second dorsal streak beyond the tornus. There is a well-defined black apical spot, and a pale fuscous marginal line in the cilia. The cilia are whitish and faintly tinged with yellow. The hindwings and cilia are whitish. The abdomen is pale grayish ochereous above and whitish beneath, while the legs are whitish. *Phyllonorycter trinotella* closely resembles *P. quercialbella*. The primary distinction is that *P. quercialbella* has three well-defined white costal streaks, versus only two well-defined streaks in *P. trinotella*.

DISTRIBUTION: *Phyllonorycter trinotella* is found in eastern North America from southern Canada (Ontario; Nova Scotia) southward and westward to Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee, and North Carolina. As of 2020, our records are all from the east-central part of the state.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Local populations appear to have at least two broods. Based on records of active mines, the adults first appear seasonally in April or early May after the spring leaf-out, with a second brood occurring in July and August.

HABITAT: Local populations are found in urban or woodland habitats with maples, particularly Red Maple and Florida Maple.

FOOD: The known hosts include Florida Maple (*A. floridanum*), Norway Maple (*A. platanoides*), Red Maple (*A. rubrum*), and Silver Maple (*A. saccharinum*). As of 2020, our records for North Carolina are all from *A. floridanum* and *A. rubrum*.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults appear to only occasionally visit UV lights, but have been successfully reared in North Carolina from leaf mines that were collected from *A. rubrum* and *A. floridanum*.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S2S3

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: We currently do not have sufficient information on the distribution and abundance of this species to assess its conservation status.