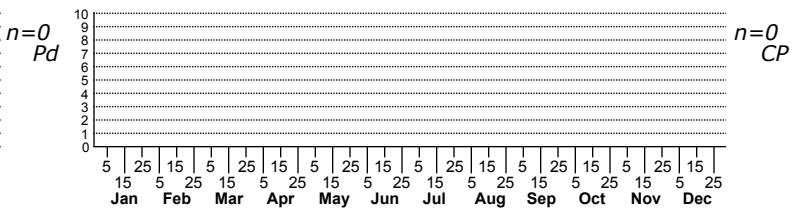
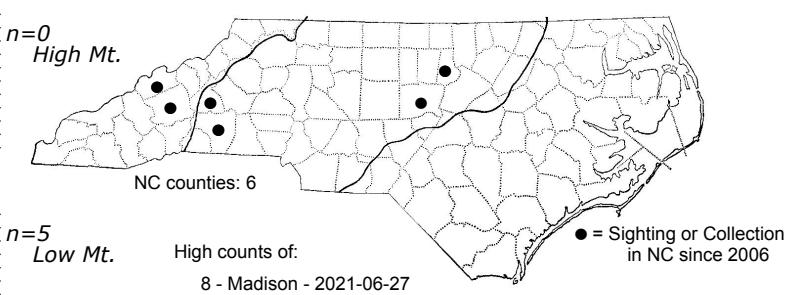
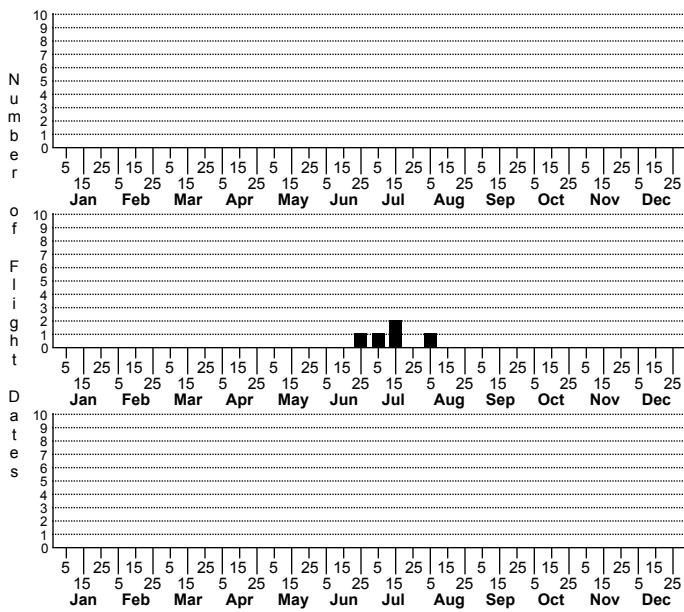


Cameraria obstrictella None



FAMILY: Gracillariidae SUBFAMILY: TRIBE:

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: <i>Cameraria</i> is a genus of leaf-mining micromoths. Many species are stenophagous and specialize on a small number of closely related host species. There are currently more than 50 described species in North America.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Clemens (1859); Braun (1908)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Clemens (1859); Braun (1908)

ID COMMENTS: The following is based on the description by Clemens (1859) and Braun (1908). The palps are whitish. The face is white and tinged with reddish orange that deepens towards the vertex. The head tuft, thorax, and ground color of the forewing are all reddish orange, and the antenna is dark gray above. The forewing has silvery markings that are dark margined externally. At about one-third the wing length there is a silvery fascia that is very indistinctly angulated near the costa, and nearer the base on the dorsal margin. Just beyond the middle of the wing length there is a straight perpendicular fascia, and at about three-fourths a pair of opposite silvery streaks. These are often united in the middle of the wing to form a third fascia. The apex has a velvety blackish brown patch, with a few silvery scales immediately before the patch. The cilia are mostly reddish brown, but transition to gray at the tornus. A dark brown line extends through the middle of the cilia. The hindwing and cilia are blackish brown, while the abdomen is blackish brown in the female and gray in the male. The legs are pale brownish gray, with the tarsi whitish, and shaded with gray toward their bases. Braun (1908) noted that <i>C. obstrictella</i> can be distinguished from all other allied eastern species by the black scales which form the apical dusting and do not reach the tornus as in <i>C. guttifinitella</i>. These scales are more freely tipped with black than is usual and form a large black spot or patch rather than a number of small dots as seen in some species.

DISTRIBUTION: <i>Cameraria obstrictella</i> is a seemingly uncommon species, with only a few scattered records from the eastern US. Specimens have been found in Maine, New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kentucky, Michigan and North Carolina, where it appears to reach the southern limit of its range. While almost all of our records as of 2022 come from the Blue Ridge and western Piedmont, two records for this species are from the eastern Piedmont.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Adults have been documented from March through August, with a seasonal peak in July. As of 2022, we have larval records from June and again from mid-September through late-October that presumably reflect two different broods.

HABITAT: The larvae feed on oaks and are associated with mesic to dry hardwood forests with oaks.

FOOD: Braun (1908) listed the hosts as White Oak (<i>Quercus alba</i>), Chinquapin Oak (<i>Q. muehlenbergii</i>), and Northern Red Oak (<i>Q. rubra</i>). White Oak appears to be the primary host in North Carolina, but we also have records for Overcup Oak (<i>Q. lyrata</i>), Chestnut Oak (<i>Q. montana</i>), and Water Oak (<i>Q. nigra</i>).

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults have rarely been collected and most records are based on adults that were reared from mines on oaks.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S2S3]

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: This appears to be an uncommon species that has only been documented at a few scattered localities in the eastern US. It was discovered in North Carolina in 2020 and several additional site records have been added since then. More information is needed on its distribution and abundance before we can fully assess its conservation status.