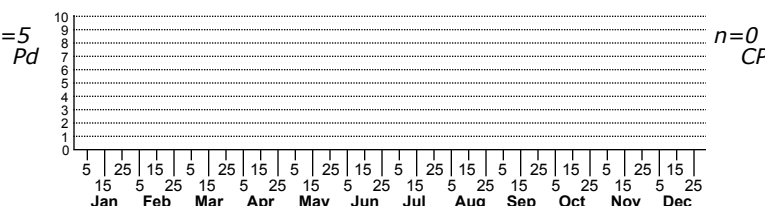
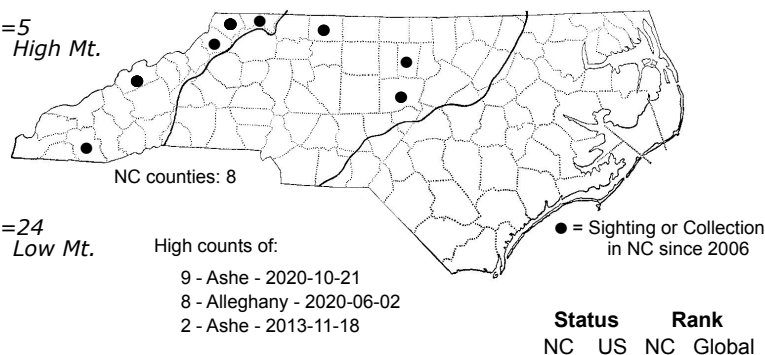
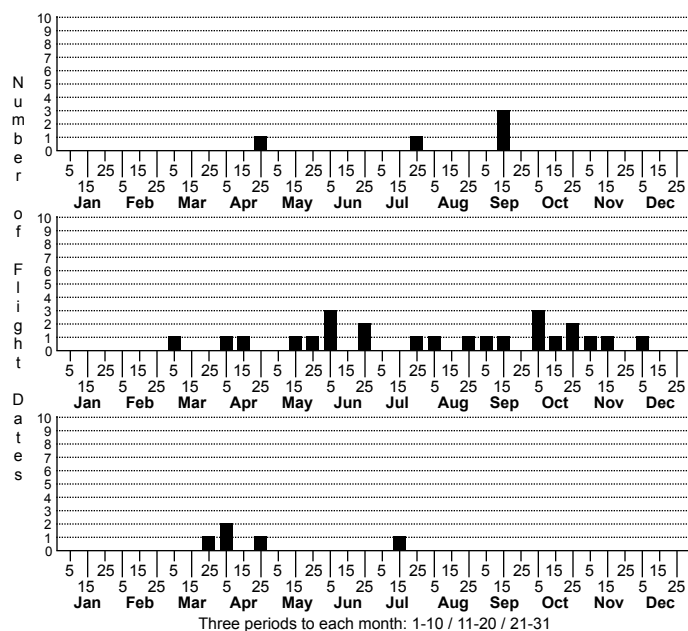


Agonopterix eupatoriella None



FAMILY: Depressariidae SUBFAMILY: Depressariinae TRIBE: [Depressariini]

TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: <i>Agonopterix</i> is a large holarctic genus with more than 125 species, with most occurring in the Palearctic Region. Currently, there are 47 recognized species in North America. Our species are largely confined to the western mountains.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Chambers, 1878; Clarke, 1941

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The following is based primarily on description by Chambers (1878) and Clarke (1941). The head, antenna, palps, thorax and forewing vary from light brown or fuscous to dark gray. The labial palp is light ochreous-gray and the second segment is lightly irrorated with black scales. The third segment is long and recurved. It is almost entirely black, with only narrow, poorly defined, median and apical bands of the light ground color showing. The forewing is distinctive in having numerous tiny tufts that are composed of raised black-tipped scales. The four discal dots (Forbes, 1923) are generally inconspicuous except for the most posterior (dot 'd') that is white and surrounded by a few black scales. The two anteriormost discal dots ('a' and 'b') are often evident as tiny black dots with a few associated white scales. Dot 'c' is usually not evident. The costa has a series of poorly defined blackish spots, and the cilia are ochreous-fuscous. The hindwing is pale grayish and the legs are dark gray or fuscous. This species is rather nondescript. The light diffuse band behind the head that is pronounced on many <i>Agonopterix</i> is either missing or poorly developed, as is the dark blotch that adjoins it. The numerous minute raised black tufts on the forewing are the most distinctive feature of this species.

DISTRIBUTION: <i>Agonopterix eupatoriella</i> is found primarily in eastern North America, including in Saskatchewan, Ontario and Quebec. In the US, the range extends from Vermont and Connecticut westward to Illinois and Wisconsin, and south and southwestward to Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. This species has been reported from Mississippi and Florida, but we are unaware of any recent records from this region. Populations in the southern Appalachians in Tennessee and North Carolina appear to be disjunct from the main range farther north. As of 2023, most of our records are from the Blue Ridge, along with three records from the Piedmont.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been recorded during most months of the year. They overwinter and are most active between February and May. As of 2023, our records extend from April through December.

HABITAT: The habitats are poorly documented, but records are generally associated with hardwood forests, forest edges, and more open, low-lying habitats.

FOOD: Hosts reported by Chambers (1878) and Hodges (1974) include White Snakeroot (<i>Ageratina altissima</i>), Wingstem (<i>Verbesina alternifolia</i>) and Shagbark Hickory (<i>Carya ovata</i>). Hairy Leafcup (<i>Smallanthus uvedalia</i>) is also used (BugGuide record). In North Carolina, Tracy Feldman reared larvae feeding on Yellow Crownbeard (<i>Verbesina occidentalis</i>).

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults occasionally visit lights.

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 currently do not have sufficient information on the distribution and abundance of this species within the state to accurately assess its conservation status.