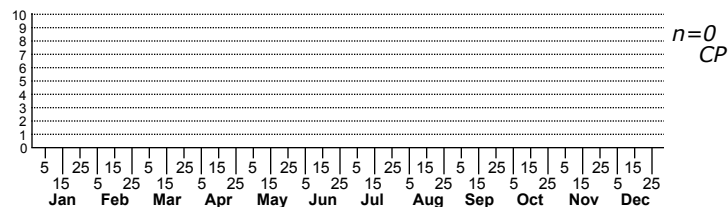
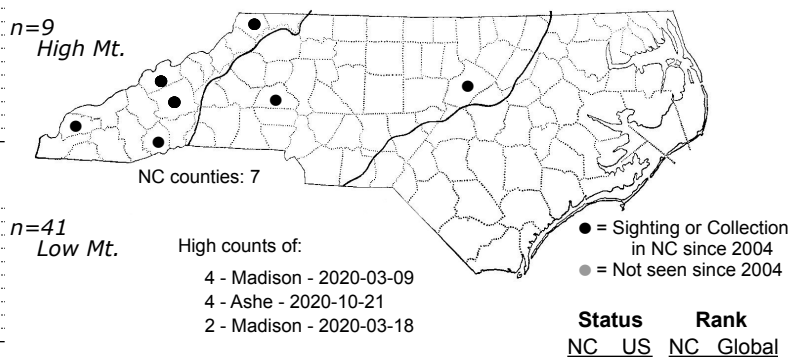
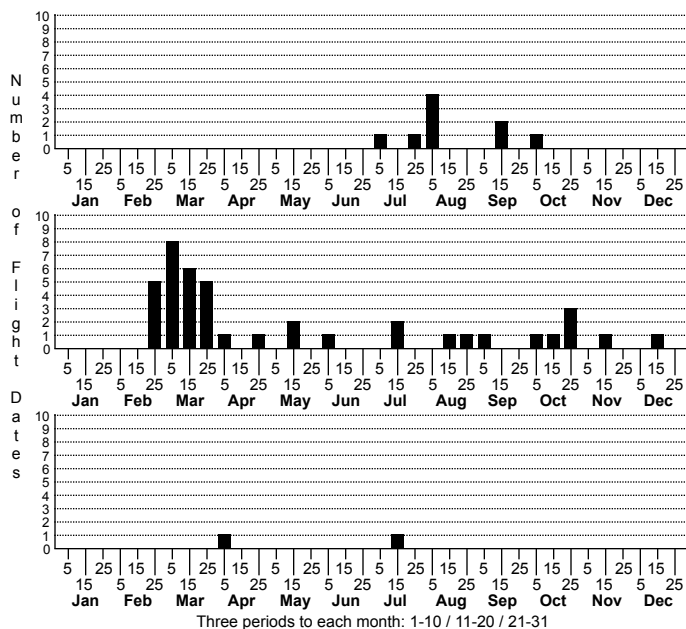


# *Agonopterix pulvipennella* Goldenrod Leaffolder Moth



FAMILY: Depressariidae SUBFAMILY: Depressariinae TRIBE: [Depressariini]

TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS: *Agonopterix* 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: Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes, 1923; Clarke, 1941.

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Forbes (1923)

ID COMMENTS: The following is primarily based on descriptions in Forbes (1923) and Clarke (1941). The face is whitish and the vertex is rose-brown. The labial palp is whitish ochreous tinged with pink, and the second segment is irrorated with blackish fuscous exteriorly. The third segment has a black tip and a black ring on the basal and subapical portions. The antenna is fuscous. The forewing has a light brown to brownish tan ground color with small dark spots and flecks scattered throughout. The thorax and base of the forewing are mottled with tan, whitish and brownish scales that produces a diffuse light band behind the head that extends along the costa to about one-fifth the wing length. Immediately adjoining this is a dark patch of scales that fades posteriorly and does not reach the costa. Discal dots 'a' and 'b' are black, while 'd' has a white center and 'c' is obliterated (Forbes, 1923). The most conspicuous mark is a dark brown blotch near the middle of wing with a white dot (discal dot d) on the lower edge. The blotch varies in shape and size, but often resembles a blurred "V" or "W". Additional blurred dark streaking often extends longitudinally from the white dot towards the costa and apex. The costal margin has a series of alternating dark and light bars along much of its length that continues along the termen as a series of dark dots. The fringe is reddish. The hindwing is light fuscous, and the cilia somewhat lighter with a dark basal band. The legs are whitish-ochreous and suffused and mottled with blackish fuscous except at the joints.

DISTRIBUTION: *Agonopterix pulvipennella* is primarily found in the eastern North America, but disjunct populations occur in western Canada, Colorado, and Mexico. In the east, populations have been found throughout most of southern Canada and adjoining areas of the northeastern US, westward to Wisconsin and Minnesota. The range extends as far south as Texas, Alabama, and Georgia. This species appears to be absent from or rare in many areas of the southeastern Coastal Plain and Piedmont. As of 2020, our records are from the Piedmont and Blue Ridge.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been recorded during most months of the year. Overwintering adults become active with the spring warm-up. Peak activity occurs between March and May when breeding presumably occurs. Some populations may have a second summer brood (Forbes, 1923). In North Carolina, the peak activity is in March, with scattered records occurring throughout the remainder of the year.

HABITAT: This species uses hosts that are generally associated with open, sunny habitats such as roadsides, abandoned fields, meadows, forest edges and open woods.

FOOD: The specific hosts are rather poorly documented. According to Hodges (1974) and Forbes (1923), they include goldenrods (*Solidago* spp.), nettles (*Urtica* spp.) and thoroughworts (*Eupatorium* spp.).

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: Most records are for adults at lights. Additional information is needed on the larval host plants, so we encourage searching for the caterpillars.

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.