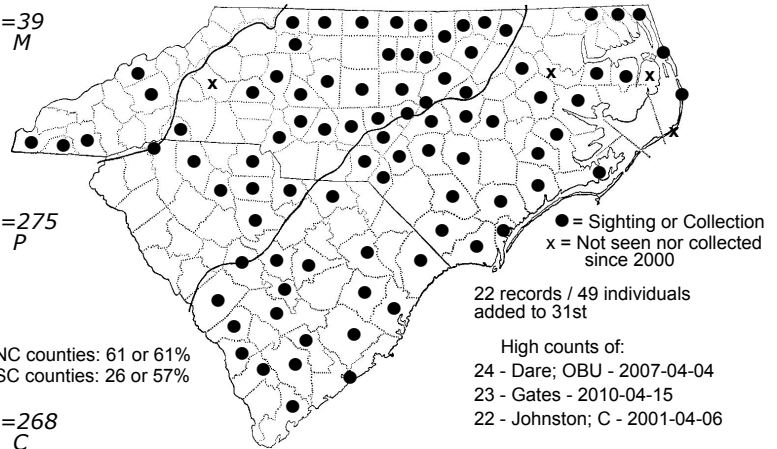
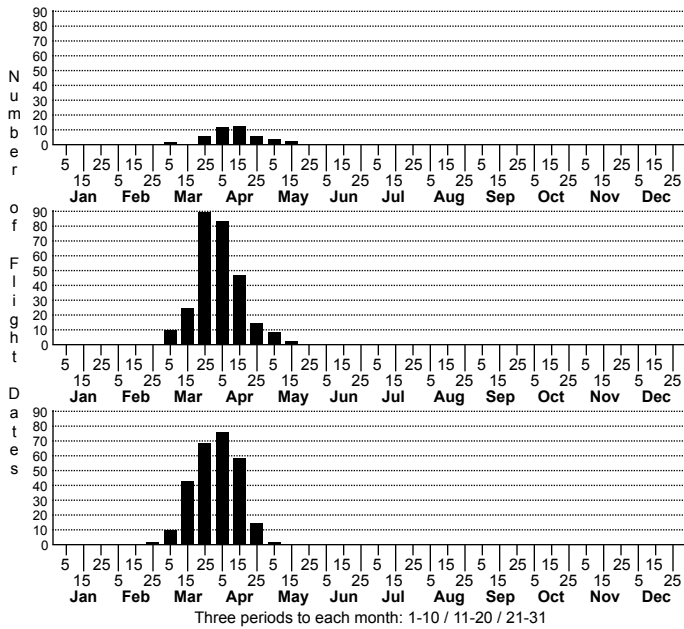


# Henry's Elfin *Callophrys henrici*



NC counties: 61 or 61%  
SC counties: 26 or 57%

*n*=268  
C  
New for 31st: Dare; OBM, Rowan

Earliest date: New Hanover 28 Feb 2023  
Latest date: Iredell 20 May 2009

Synonym: *Incisalia henrici*

**Status and Rank**  
State: S4  
Global: G5

**DISTRIBUTION:** Assumed to be nearly statewide, but relatively few records for the Mountains and western Piedmont. Recent records from Rockingham and Yadkin counties have filled in gaps in the western Piedmont. Perhaps completely absent from the northern Mountains, as the elevation there may be too high for the species.

**ABUNDANCE:** Uncommon to locally fairly common, and reasonably widespread, in the Coastal Plain and eastern Piedmont; surprisingly rare in the western Piedmont, and very rare in the lower Mountains. Found in Clay County in 2001, for a first Mountain report, in Macon County in 2007, in Buncombe County in 2008, in Madison County in 2012, and in Cherokee County in 2019.

**FLIGHT PERIOD:** A single brood; downstate from early March to late April, very rarely to mid-May (peaking with the peak in flowering of Redbud). The mountain flight is certainly later, from late March to mid-May.

**HABITAT:** Highly varied; ranges from xeric upland hardwoods, to mesic woods, to pocosin margins, to clearcuts, to swamps! Often found along trails or dirt roads near these forested areas. Forests with evergreen species of hollies (*Ilex* spp.) seem to be preferred; over most of the state, areas where American Holly (*Ilex opaca*) is common may be a key feature.

**FOOD AND NECTAR PLANTS:** Evergreen hollies (*Ilex* spp.) seem to be the main foodplants in NC. American Holly is favored, but other evergreen species such as gallberries and Yaupon Holly (*I. vomitoria*) are apparently used in the Coastal Plain. Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*) is a foodplant in parts of its range, but in NC this tree is often absent where the elfins are present, though it likely is used in the Mountains and western Piedmont. The species commonly nectars on flowers of Redbud, blueberries (*Vaccinium* spp.), and Sweetleaf (*Symplocos tinctoria*).

**COMMENTS:** This is not as colonial a species as with most elfins and hairstreaks, but you can find four or five in a day, rarely 10 or more, in some areas in the Coastal Plain. It may be searched for, but never expected, in forests with hollies. To see this species, you must plan to be afield often in late March and April, preferably in the eastern half of the state. Nonetheless, this is the most often encountered elfin in the eastern part of the state. It is gratifying to see a few new records in recent years from the Mountain and western Piedmont regions, though there are still no records for the northern Mountains, nor for heavily-worked Guilford and Forsyth counties in the Piedmont.