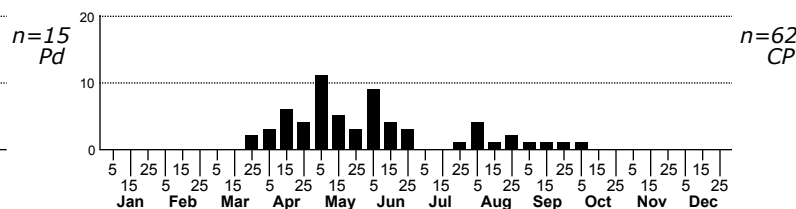
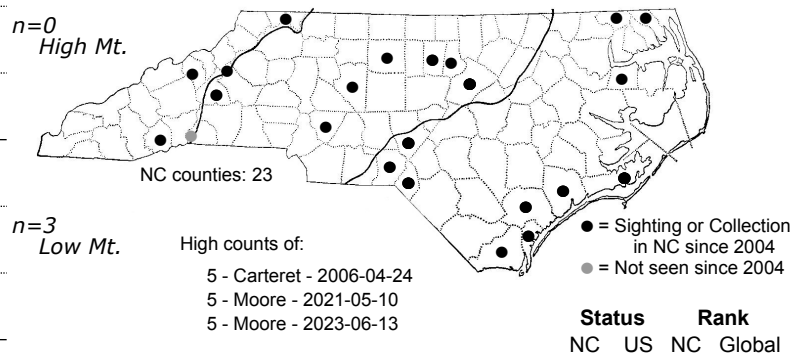
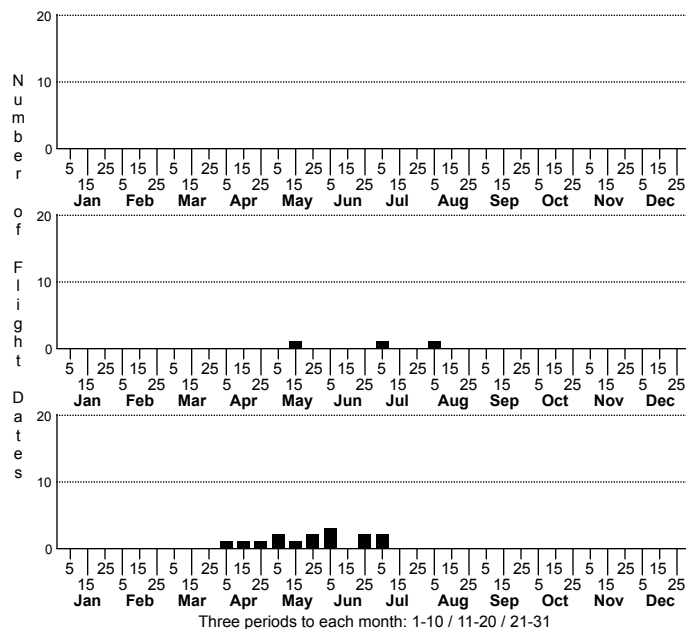


Pelochrista robinsonana Robinson's Pelochrista Moth



FAMILY: Tortricidae SUBFAMILY: Olethreutinae TRIBE: Eucosmini

TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: *Pelochrista* is a large Holarctic genus of tortricids with around 75% of the 226 described species being native to North America (Wright and Gilligan, 2017). The highest species richness occurs in the western half of North America. The genus has a long and confusing taxonomic history, with many of the species formerly placed in the genus *Eucosma*. Gilligan et al. (2014) conducted a comprehensive phylogenetic analysis of *Pelochrista*, *Eucosma*, and related genera and redefined the genus *Eucosma* and *Pelochrista* based on differences in female genitalia. The great majority of *Pelochrista* species are known only from adults, which likely reflects the fact that the larvae of most species bore into stem bases and roots and are concealed from view. Members of the Asteraceae are the likely hosts for most species (Wright and Gilligan, 2017), but much work need to be done to identifying the hosts.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Wright and Gilligan (2017)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The adults are boldly marked with white and brown patterning and are difficult to confuse with other species. The head and palps are predominantly white, but have light brown scales that are intermixed. The thorax is brown with a white central line that connects with a small white spot at the base. The remainder of the wing has five white marks that include two white interfascial areas (bands) that separate brown basal, sub-basal, and median fascias, along with two white patches -- each with a brown dot -- on the distal half of the costa (Wright and Gilligan, 2017). A whitish ocellus or patch is also present near the anal angle that is usually edged laterally by pinkish transverse bars. In males the white band between the sub-basal and median brown fascias extends from the inner margin to the radius, while in females it continues to the costa. The hindwing is medium brown with a paler fringe. This species resembles *P. quinquemaculana* but the latter has a larger white basal spot, only one transverse white band in the proximal half of the wing, and a white spot without a trace of pink in the position of the ocellus (Wright and Gilligan, 2017).

DISTRIBUTION: *Pelochrista robinsonana* is restricted to eastern North America where it occupies a broad range that extends from New Hampshire and Vermont southward to southern Florida and westward to eastern and north-central Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, and North Dakota. In North Carolina this species is most commonly encountered in the Coastal Plain and Piedmont, with only a few records from the lower elevations in the Blue Ridge.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Local populations appear to have one or two broods per year depending on the latitude. The adults are active year-round in Florida and have been collected from March to October elsewhere. Peak activity in most areas of the range occurs from April through July. As of 2022, our records extends from late-March through early October, with Coastal Plain populations appearing to possibly having a second brood late-summer.

HABITAT: Our records come primarily from open, herb-dominated habitats, although at least a few come from forested sites. A large number were recorded in dry-xeric sand ridge habitats.

FOOD: The host plants appear to be unknown, but there is one records which suggests that the larval may use goldenrods (Wright and Gilligan (2017).

OBSERVATION_METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S3S4

STATE PROTECTION: Has no legal protection, although permits are required to collect it on state parks and other public lands.

COMMENTS:

March 2024

The Moths of North Carolina - Early Draft

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