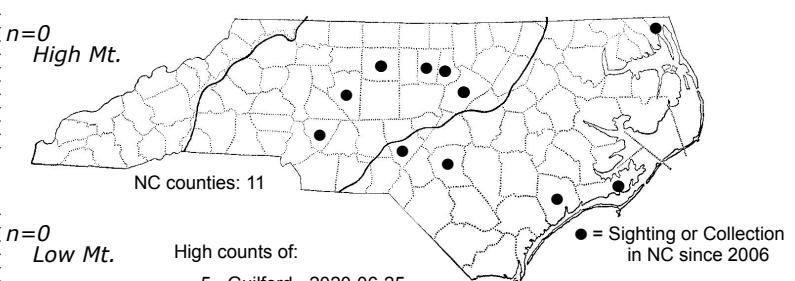
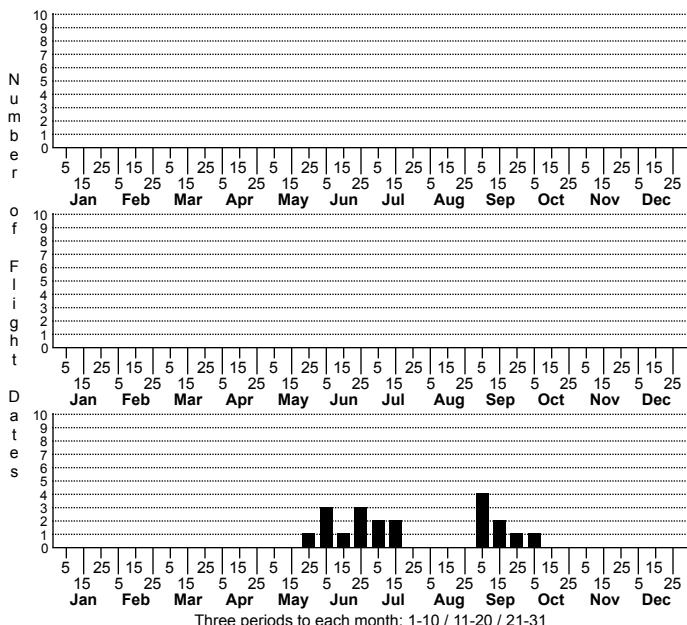


Martyringa xeraula Himalayan Grain Moth



FAMILY: Lecithoceridae SUBFAMILY: TRIBE:

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: <i>Martyringa</i> is a small genus with four recognized species that occur in North America, India, and Southeast Asia. Hodges described <i>Martyringa ravicapitis</i> in 1960 from two reared Louisiana specimens. This species is an introduced grain moth from India and Asia. Meyrick (1910) described an essentially identical species as <i>Anchonoma xeraula</i> from India (later transferred to the genus <i>Martyringa</i>). Most treatments of this genus treat <i>M. ravicapitis</i> as a junior synonym of <i>M. xeraula</i>, as we do here.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The following description is based on Hodges (1960). The labial palp, head, thorax, and forewing are ocherous and heavily overlaid with dark fuscous. The second segment of the labial palp is dark fuscous on the basal two-thirds on the outer side, and somewhat fuscous near the base of the inner side. The third segment has a fuscous annulus on the basal half. The scape of the antenna is fuscous except for a narrow terminal ocherous annulus. The shaft is annulated with narrow, fuscous rings that become ocherous distally. The forewing has two black spots at the basal third. The anterior one ends where the inner, posterior one begins, and is preceded by a patch of skewed scales. The anterior black spot is followed by an ocherous bar and a third black spot at the end of the cell. A series of two or three fine longitudinal black lines are often present on the outer third of the wing. There is a wavy subterminal line that is W-shaped. The apex is ocherous. The cilia are fuscous basally and lighter gray distally from the apex to the tornus. The hindwing is fuscous and the cilia fuscous with ocherous tips. The legs are blackish fuscous outwardly, with ocherous annuli at the tips of the segments, and at the middle of the hind tibia.

This species resembles a dulled-down version of <i>M. latipennis</i>, but the paired black spots at one-third are displaced relative to one another, and the subterminal line is more jagged and W-shaped. In <i>M. latipennis</i> the two paired spots are about equidistant from a reference point such as the wing base, and the subterminal line is less jagged, with the line running perpendicular to the costa before angulating posteriorly.

DISTRIBUTION: <i>Martyringa xeraula</i> is found in the southeastern US from North Carolina southward to Florida and westward to Louisiana, Arkansas and eastern Texas. An apparent disjunct is found in New York City and vicinity. As of 2020, our records are from the eastern Piedmont and Coastal Plain.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Adults have been observed between March and October in different areas of the range, with no strong seasonal peak in activity. As of 2020, our records span from late May to early October, with evidence of double-brooding in the Piedmont.

HABITAT: The habitats are poorly documented. Expect to find this species in decomposing organic matter such as rotting logs or compost piles. It also occasionally exploits stored grain.

FOOD: This species is a minor pest in stored grain and also feeds on detritus and its associated organisms (Hodges, 1974; Robinson et al., 2010)

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR SNA

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: This is an exotic species that does not merit protection.