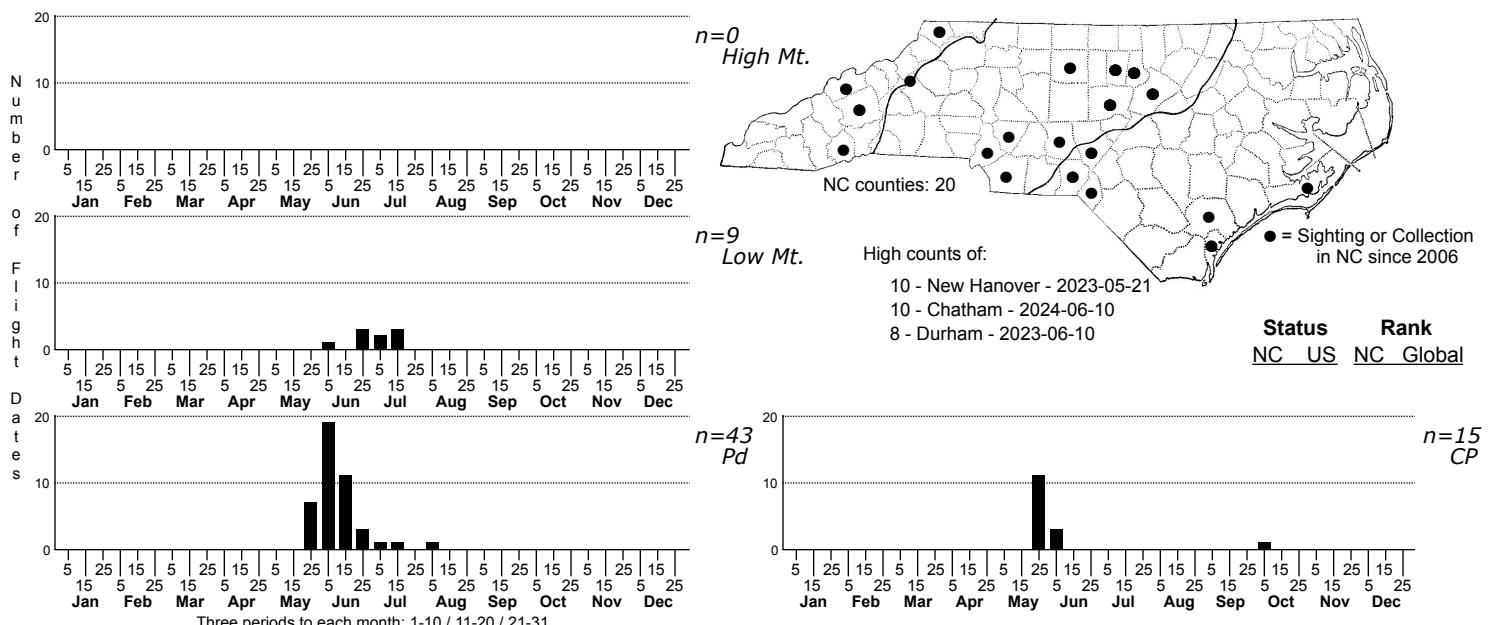


Glyphidocera democratica None



FAMILY: *Glyphidoceridae* SUBFAMILY: [Glyphidocerinae] TRIBE: [Glyphidocerini]

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: <i>Glyphidocera</i> is a large but poorly studied genus with numerous undescribed species in the Neotropics, where they reach their greatest diversity. Adamski (2005) described 88 new species from Costa Rica alone. There are currently 11 described species in North America, and seven species in North Carolina. They are small to medium-sized moths and, with rare exceptions, vary from pale yellowish brown to dark brown. Most have few, if any, diagnostic markings on the wings. Host associations are unknown for almost all species, which suggests that they may be detritivores or fungivores that do not feed on living plants.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Meyrick (1929)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The following is based in part on the description by Meyrick (1929). The palps are strongly recurved and reach backwards almost to the thorax. The head, thorax, labial palps, and forewings are brownish to ochreous. The antenna is tan with obscure darker annulations, and the notch is deep, with a scale-tooth beneath. The forewing has thinly sprinkled dark brown to blackish scales throughout. A heavy dusting of black scales is present on the termen and fringe, and sometimes on the basal third of the wing. A large blackish spot is present just before one-half the wing length near the middle, and a second smaller spot at about two-thirds. The first spot is often elongated and somewhat oblique. The cilia are pale gray to grayish black, with two obscure shades of gray. The hindwings is light gray, and the cilia are pale gray with a darker sub-basal shade.

<i>Glyphidocera democratica</i> resembles several other <i>Glyphidocera</i> in terms of the overall brownish appearance and spot pattern. This species tends to be darker than most others and has a heavy dusting of black scales near the end of the forewing. In addition, the first dark-brown spot tends to be elongated, slightly oblique, and noticeably larger than the second spot.

DISTRIBUTION: <i>Glyphidocera democratica</i> is found in the eastern US, and primarily in the Southeast. The range extends from Maryland and vicinity, southward to southern Florida, and westward to central Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kentucky, and Illinois. As of 2021, our records are mostly from the Piedmont, with one record from a lower elevation site in the mountains, and a second from the southern Coastal Plain.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Adults have been observed from April through July in areas outside of North Carolina. Populations in North Carolina are univoltine. As of 2021, our records extend from late May through mid-July.

HABITAT: The natural habitats are poorly documented, with almost all of our records coming from semi-wooded residential neighborhoods.

FOOD: The hosts are unknown. Except for one species, the hosts of the more than 100 described species of <i>Glyphidocera</i> are unknown. This suggests that the larvae do not feed on living plant foliage, and are perhaps detritivores or fungivores.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

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: As of 2021, we have a few scattered records from throughout the state. We need additional information on the distribution, abundance, and habitat use before we can assess the conservation status of this species.