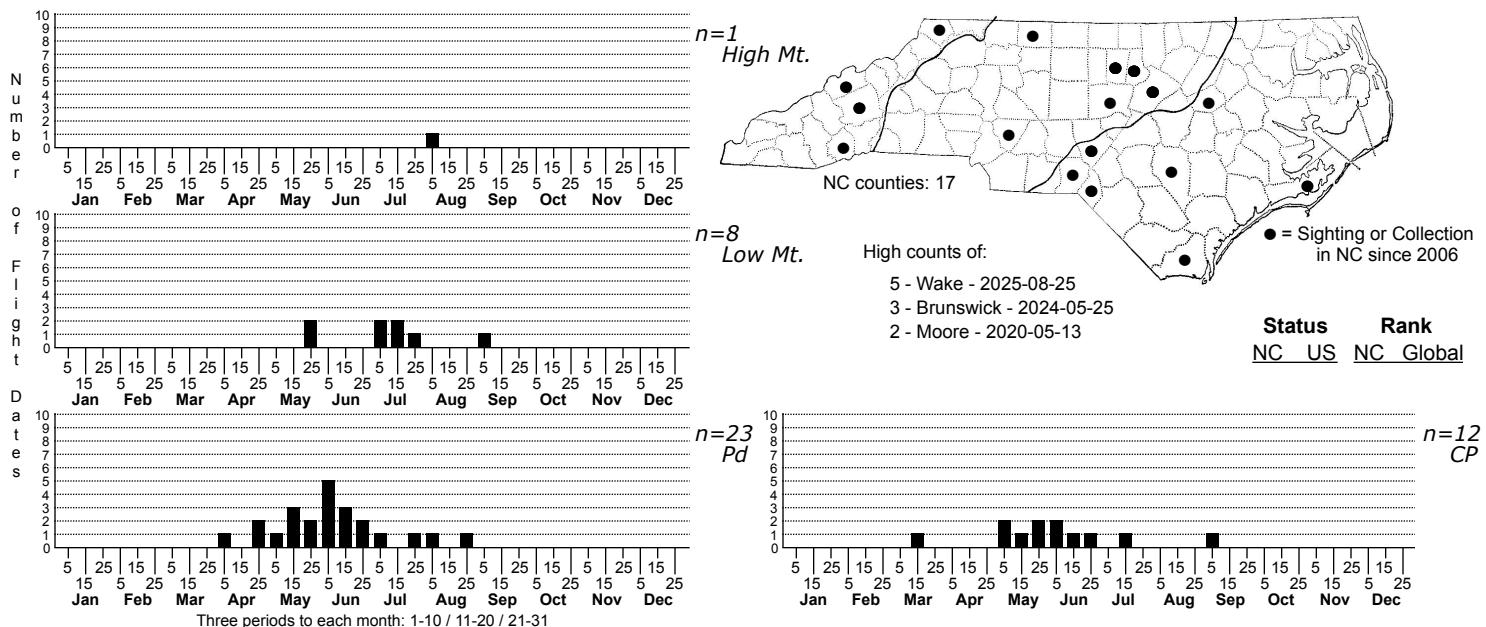


# *Blastobasis pulchella* None



FAMILY: Blastobasidae SUBFAMILY: Blastobasinae TRIBE: Blastobasini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: <i>Blastobasis</i> is a taxonomically difficult genus, with several undescribed species in North America. There appears to be several poorly resolved species complexes within this and closely related genera. A comprehensive revision of the genus is needed.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Dietz (1910)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The following is based in part on the description by Dietz (1910). The labial palp, antenna, head, and thorax vary from light tannish-brown to darker shades of brown. The forewing has a rather wide, silver white fascia at one-third that is straight. It is sharply defined posteriorly by heavy, dark brown shading that fades posteriorly before reaching a dark discal spot at about the middle of the wing. There are two additional spots at the end of cell at about three-fourths, but these are often completely obscured by a straight, dark brown fascia. The middle and apical regions are more or less suffused with brown and sprinkling with varying concentrations of white scales. The cilia are similar in color to the ground and there is often some fine darker mottling at the termen. The hindwing is pale gray and dusted with fuscous. The legs are brownish with white banding on the tarsi. *Pigritia murtfeldtella* is similar, but lacks the conspicuous dark spot at mid-wing and the dark fascia at three-fourths. This species also has poorly developed palps that are not visible when viewed from above. Some of the <i>Holcocera</i> species are also similar, but the whitish fascia at one-third typically doesn't reach the inner margin, and the dark fascia at three-fourths is missing (typically, pairs spots are present instead).

DISTRIBUTION: The range is poorly documented, but specimens fitting the description of this species have been found throughout the eastern US and adjoining areas of Canada. As of 2021, our records are from the western Coastal Plain to the lower elevations in the mountains.

FLIGHT COMMENT: In North Carolina, adults are active during the warmer months of the year. As of 2021, our records are from late April through early August.

HABITAT: The habitat requirements are largely unknown. Most of our records are from residential neighborhoods.

FOOD: The hosts are undocumented.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults occasional visit lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR SNR [S3S4]

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: We currently do not have sufficient information on the distribution, abundance, and habitat requirements of this species in order to assess its conservation status.