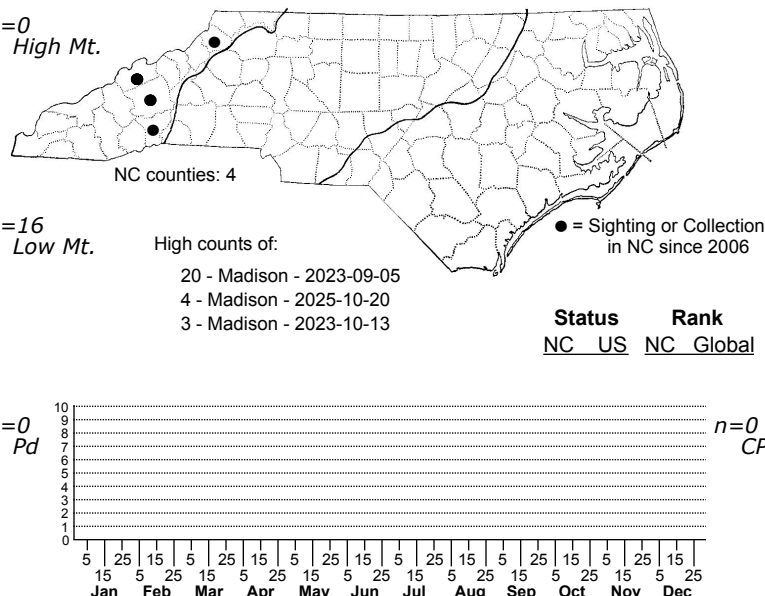
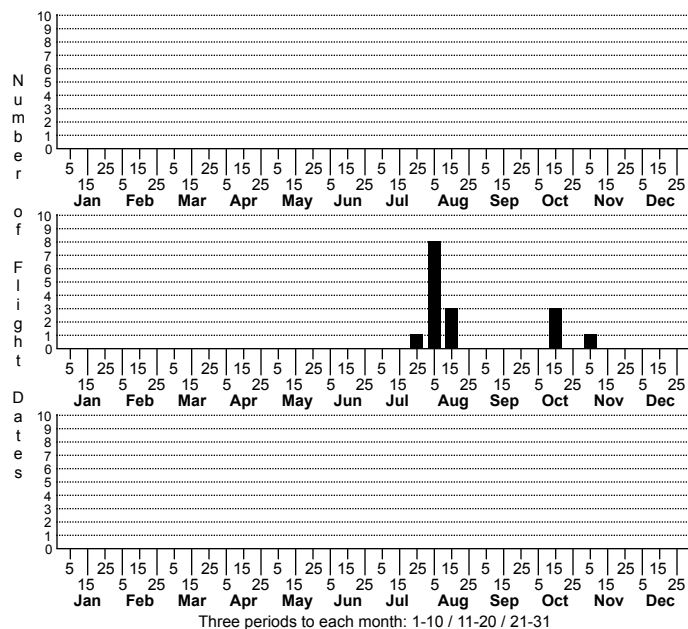


## *Mompha brevivittella* None



FAMILY: Momphidae SUBFAMILY: Momphinae TRIBE: [Momphini]

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: The genus *Mompha* consists of around 46 described species in North America. In addition, numerous species remain to be described that are centered in the southwestern US (Bruzze et al., 2019). The adults are small moths that have two or more tufts of raised scales on each forewing. The larvae either mine leaves, or bore into the stems, flower buds, flowers, or fruits of their hosts. The majority of species feed on members of the Onagraceae, but others feed on species in the Cistaceae, Lythraceae, Melastomataceae, and Rubiaceae.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Clemens, 1864; Forbes, 1923

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Agrawal et al., 2013

ID COMMENTS: This is a small moth with an overall brownish wash, and three short, longitudinal dark streaks. The detailed description that follows is based on the descriptions by Clemens (1864) and Forbes (1923). The head and thorax are light brown, with the scales finely white-tipped on the thorax and mostly solid on the head. The antenna is dark fuscous with a yellowish basal joint. The labial palp is grayish to light brown with a brown to blackish bar on the third segment and a black tip. The forewing is light brown and nearly evenly colored, with the scales finely white-tipped. There are three short, longitudinal black dashes near the middle of the wing. These are roughly equally spaced and have several raised scales. The first is in the fold near the base, the second in the cell at about one-half the wing length, and the third near the apex. Each is accompanied by a raised, black, dorsal spot towards the inner margin (often missing in worn specimens). The spots are opposite the first two dashes, and a little before the third dash. The hindwing and cilia are fuscous. The legs are fuscous, with white spots or banding near the joints.

DISTRIBUTION: *Mompha brevivittella* is found in eastern North America, including extreme southern Canada (Alberta; Manitoba; Ontario; Quebec) and much of the eastern US from Maine southward to Florida, and westward to western Tennessee, Illinois, and Minnesota. An apparent disjunct is present in Colorado. As of 2021, our very limited records are all from the lower elevations in the western mountains.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Local populations are univoltine, and have been found from April through October in areas outside of North Carolina. Adult emergence is strongly tied to the time of year when fruits are developing on the host plants. As of 2021, All of our records are from late July through mid-August, with the exception of one October and one November record.

HABITAT: Local populations depend on evening-primroses as hosts, particularly Common Evening-primrose. This species is common in open, sunny habitats such as roadsides, powerline corridors, old fields, and woodland edges. It seems to tolerate a wide range of moisture conditions.

FOOD: This species uses Common Evening-primrose (*Oenothera biennis*) as its primary host, and presumably other *Oenothera* species.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights, and the larvae are often common in the developing fruits of the hosts. We recommend searching for the larvae in hosts and rearing the adults in order to better document host use in North Carolina.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [SU]

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 records from only three counties. This species is presumably more common than our records suggest.