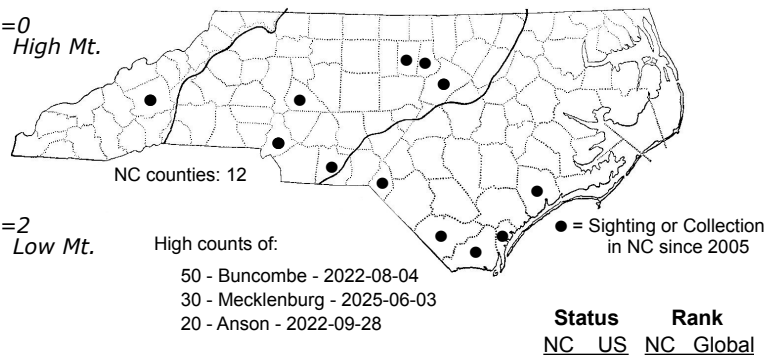
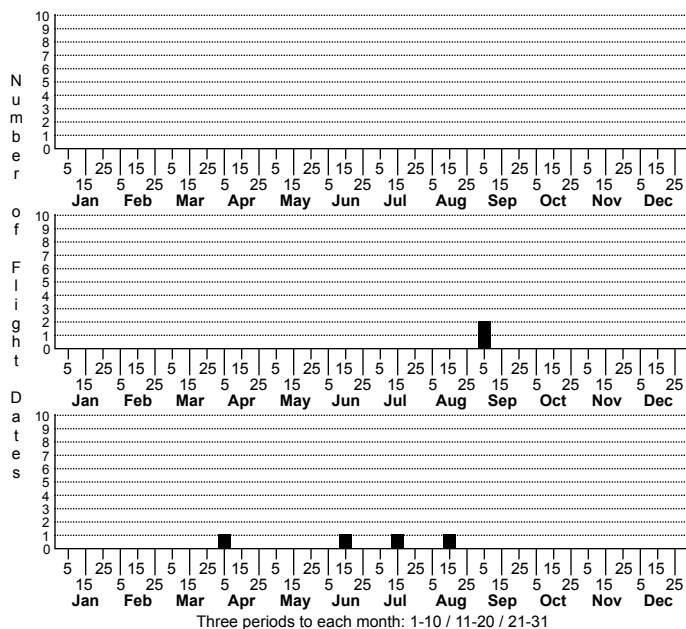


Mompha solomoni None



FAMILY: Momphidae SUBFAMILY: Momphinae TRIBE:

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 (Bruzese 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: Wagner et al. (2004)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Wagner et al. (2004)

ID COMMENTS: The following description is based on Wagner et al. (2004). The frons is shiny white and the vertex yellowish white, becoming gray to brownish gray posteriorly on the occiput. The distal portion of the antenna has six white rings of one flagellomere each. Each ring is separated by two or three brown flagellomeres. The ground color of the thorax and forewing varies from dark gray to brownish or orangish gray. There are scale tufts at one-third and three-fourths the wing length that consists of 5-6 rows of erect scales. The basal scale tuft is dark brown, while the outer tuft is white basally and dark brown apically. Lines of dark brown scales often extend from the tufts apically. The costa has three dark brown stigulae at about one-third, two-thirds, and three-fourths. In the discal area of the forewing, there is a conspicuous, elongated, black dash that is usually joined with a white dash along its anterior margin. There is an acutely angled indistinct dark patch with a band of grayish white scales on the apical end of the wing. The hindwing is uniformly grayish brown and the legs have dark banding.

This species is similar to *M. cephalonthiella* and can be most easily separated based on the antenna patterning (only one or two white flagellomeres on the antenna tip of *M. cephalonthiella*), and by the elongated, black dash in the discal area that is usually joined with a white dash along its anterior margin (both marks are poorly developed or absent in *M. cephalonthiella*).

DISTRIBUTION: *Mompha solomoni* is found in eastern North America in Quebec and throughout much of the eastern US to as far south as Florida and Texas. As of 2023, we have scattered records from all three physiographic provinces. Populations are presumably rare or absent from the mountains because of the scarcity of the host plant there.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Local populations are multivoltine, with broods beginning shortly after the spring leaf-out and continuing through the fall.

HABITAT: Local populations are only found in association with Buttonbush, which is a wetland species that is found in sunny to partially shaded wetlands. Look for it along pond and lake margins, in marshes and in periodically flooded ditches.

FOOD: *Mompha solomoni* is apparently monophagous on Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) (Eiseman, 2022), which has been confirmed as the host in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to mercury vapor and UV-lights, and can be reared from the host plant.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S3S4

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: We currently do not have sufficient information on the distribution and abundance of this species within the state to assess its conservation status. It appears to be uncommon, but can be easily overlooked due to its small size and habitat requirements.