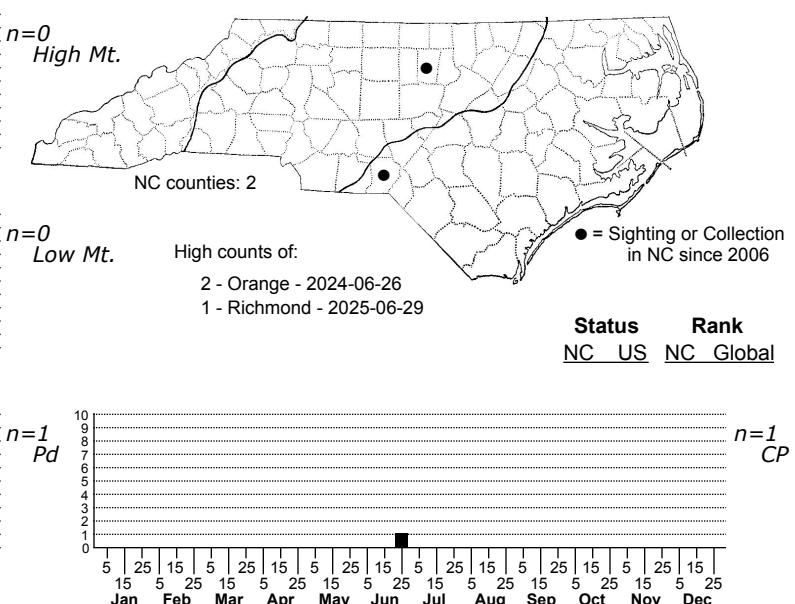
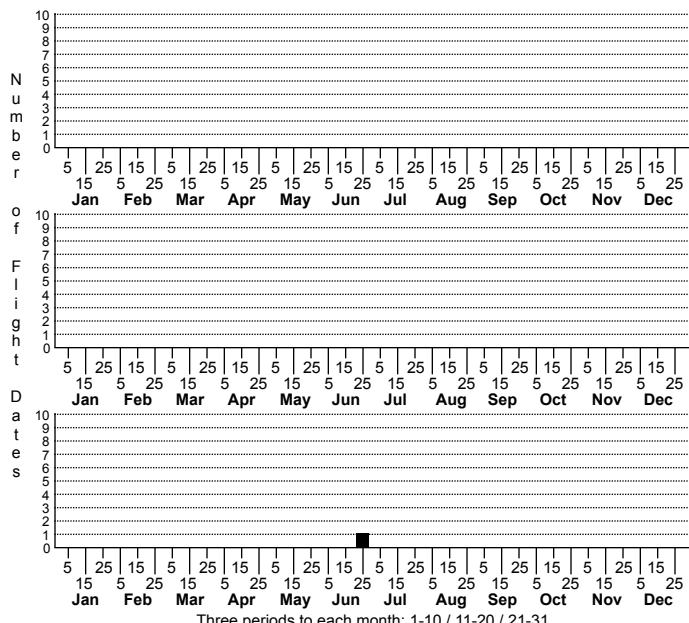


# *Cosmopterix nitens* No common name



FAMILY: Cosmopterigidae SUBFAMILY: Cosmopteriginae TRIBE:

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: We suspect that specimens that currently are recognized as *C. nitens* may be members of a species complex. Members of this group are distinctive in having the yellowish-orange fascia (patch) on the forewing divided longitudinally by a thick black line, but differ in the antennal banding. *Cosmopterix nitens* as described by Koster (2010) has five terminal white segments that are followed by 14 dark segments, then two white segments. However, specimens in North Carolina, and at certain other localities in the Southeast, often differ in having two white terminal segments that are followed by 7-8 dark segments, then two white segments. The two white segments are sometimes followed by two dark segments and an additional one or two white segments, so that there are 1-3 narrow white bands that are basal to the dark portion with 7-8 segments. There are some other differences, such as the fact that the anal line that extends from the orangish, middle fascia towards the apex is missing or poorly developed in what may be an undescribed species, but well-developed in true *C. nitens*. Members of this group were first found in North Carolina by Jeff Niznik in 2024 in Orange County and have since been found at a site in Richmond County. *Cosmopterix nitens* has been reported to specialize on *Phragmites*, but members of this genus do not occur at sites where we have collected specimens that we are currently recognizing as *C. nitens*. Until additional taxonomic studies are completed that address variation in this species, we continue to treat all for now as *C. nitens*.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS:

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT:

FOOD: Reported hosts include reeds (*Phragmites* spp.) and Annual Wild-rice (*Zizania aquatica*) (Eiseman, 2020; Heppner, 2007).

OBSERVATION METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR SNR [S1S3]

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: