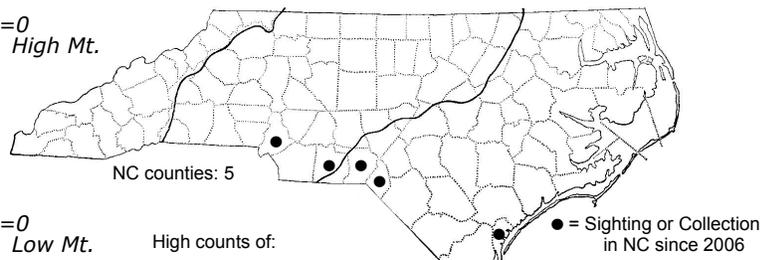
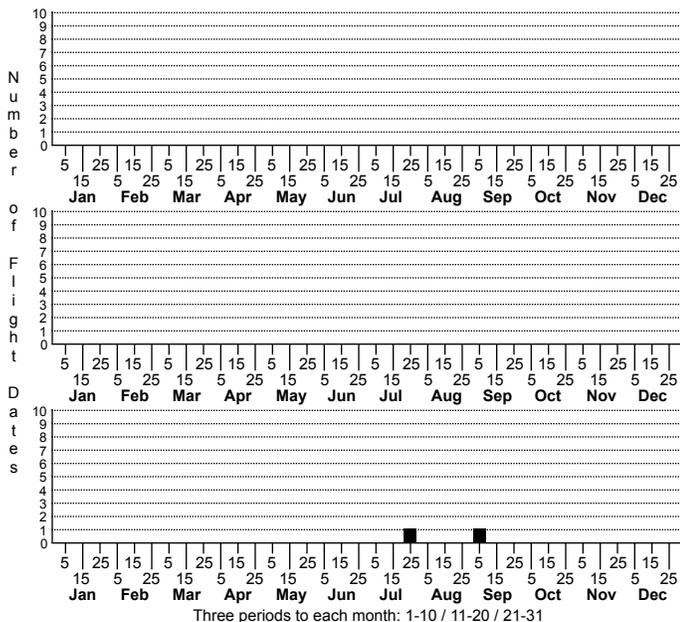


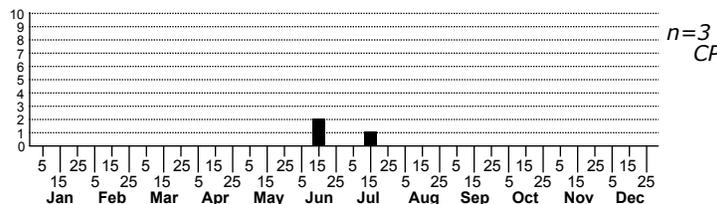
Cosmopterix dapifera No common name



High counts of:
 1 - Scotland - 2024-06-14
 1 - New Hanover - 2023-06-18
 1 - Richmond - 2025-07-20

● = Sighting or Collection in NC since 2006

Status	Rank
NC	US
NC	Global



FAMILY: Cosmopterigidae SUBFAMILY: Cosmopteriginae TRIBE:
 TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Koster (2010)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The following description focuses on forewing, head, thorax and antenna patterning, and is based on a more detailed description presented by Koster (2010). The head and thorax are dark brown with a median and two lateral white lines on each. The antenna is dark brown with a partly annulated section in the middle. From there towards the apex there are four dark-brown segments, two white segments, two dark-brown segments, two white segments, ten dark-brown segments, six white segments and one dark brown segment at the apex.

The forewing is dark-brown with four white lines in the basal half. These include 1) a subcostal line from the wing base to one-third the wing length that very slightly bends from the costa, 2) a medial line from the base that terminates just beyond the subcostal line, 3) a subdorsal line that extends from one-quarter the wing length and terminates just before the transverse fascia and 4) a dorsal line along the inner margin that extends from the wing base to or beyond the start of the subdorsal line. A yellow transverse fascia is present beyond the middle that has a narrow basal protrusion in the middle that almost contacts the subdorsal line. The distal side has a broad prolongation towards the apex. The transverse fascia is bordered on the inner edge by two tubercular, pale-golden, metallic, subcostal and subdorsal spots, with the subcostal spot displaced slightly more towards the wing base and with a patch of blackish scales on the outside. At two-thirds the length of the transverse fascia, there are two tubercular pale-golden costal and dorsal spots of equal size and that are opposite each other, with both inwardly edged with grayish-brown. The final mark is a broad, shining-white, apical line from the middle of the prolongation of the transverse fascia to the apex.

A good field mark for this species that will help to separate it from similar species is the thin, finger-like, yellowish projection from the basal edge of the transverse fascia.

DISTRIBUTION: *Cosmopterix dapifera* is primarily found in the southeastern US from Louisiana and Arkansas eastward to North Carolina, Georgia and Florida. Widely scattered records are also known from Maine, Ohio, southeastern Arizona, Cuba and one site in Brazil that are currently assigned to this species. As of 2025, we have one record from the southern Piedmont, with all others from the southern Coastal Plain, including the Sandhills and a maritime dune community.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been observed from May through September in different areas of the range, along with at least two records from January and February. As of 2025, our records are from mid-June through early-September.

HABITAT: As of 2025, our records are mostly from sandy, xeric habitats with a diverse herbaceous understory.

FOOD: The host plants are apparently unknown.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR SNR [S1S2]

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: This species appears to be rare in North Carolina, with only five records as of 2025.