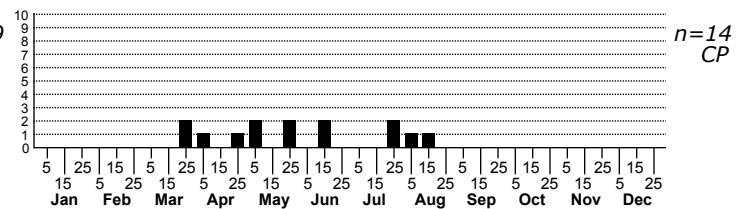
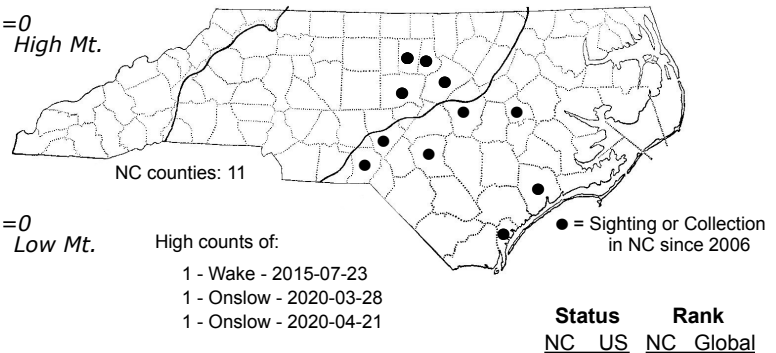
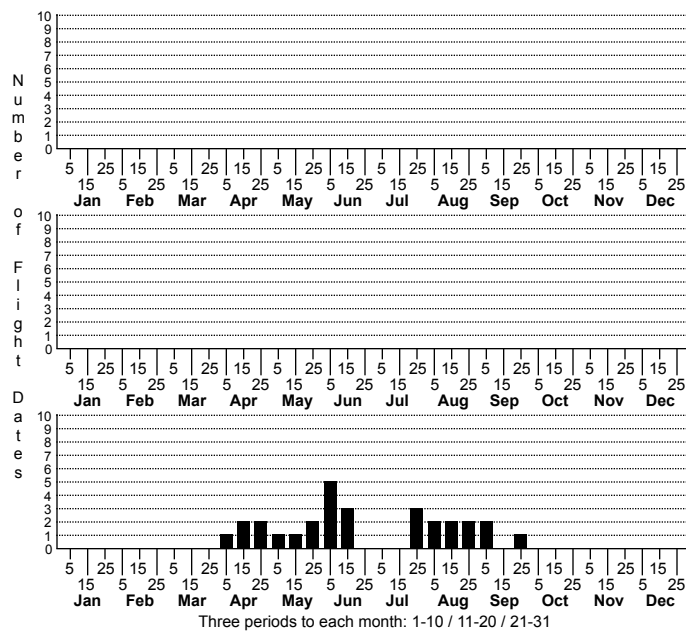


Battaristis new species No common name



FAMILY: Gelechiidae SUBFAMILY: Anacampsinae TRIBE:

TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: The genus *Battaristis* contains 31 described species that are mostly found in the New World. Most species are found in South America, and only five are currently recognized in North America.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: This is an undescribed species that has been known for several years by the moth community. Specimens have mostly been found in the Piedmont and Coastal Plain of the southeastern US. The patterning is distinctive and consistent among specimens from different areas of the state. The second segment of the labial palp is coppery-brown and the terminal segment white with a coppery-brown tip. The eyes are bright red and the antenna brown. The forewing is coppery-colored, with heavy silvery-white dusting covering portions of it, along with the head and thorax. A prominent transverse silvery-white streak cuts across the wing at around three-fourths the wing length from the base and creates a two-toned appearance of sorts. There are three contrasting black spots, including two at around one-half and near the center of the wing, and a third along the center of the outer margin.

Battaristis vitelli is similar, but has two silvery-white transverse stripes that cut across the wing and a single black spot on the forewing.

DISTRIBUTION: This species is found throughout the southeastern US from Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas eastward to Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina. There are also a few records farther north into coastal Maryland and Massachusetts. As of 2026, our records are restricted to the eastern Piedmont and Coastal Plain.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been documented from March through October in different areas of the range. As of 2025, our records range from late-March to late-September, with local populations appearing to produce two broods per year.

HABITAT: The adults have been found in a variety of habitats, including xeric Longleaf Pine forests, maritime forests, semi-wooded residential neighborhoods, and mixed deciduous-pine forests.

FOOD: As of 2025, we are unaware of any documentation of the host plants.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR SNR [S3S4]

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: