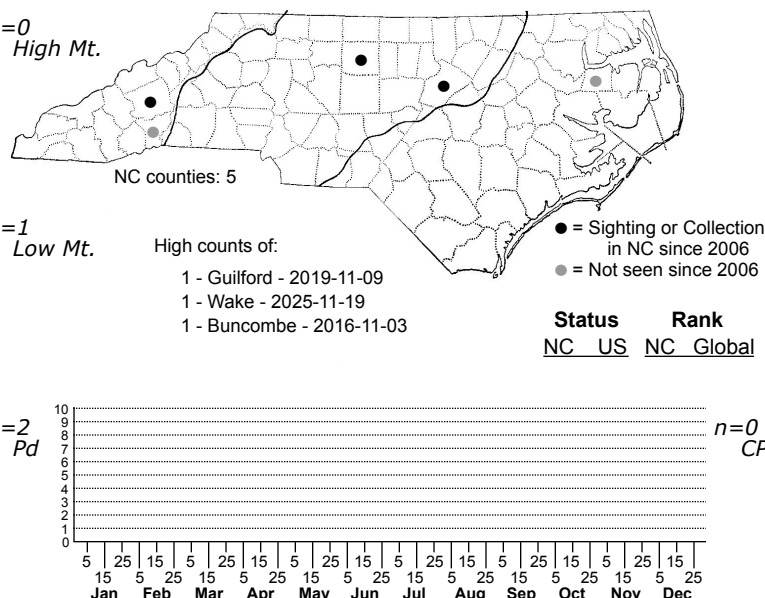
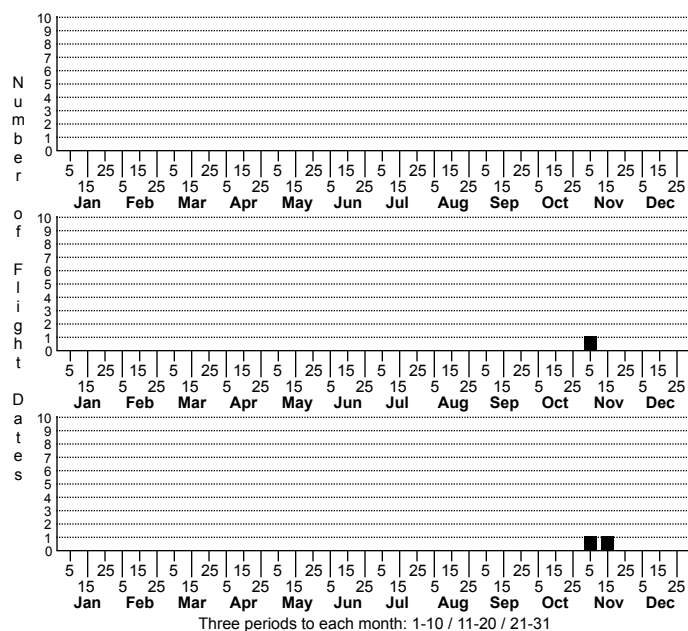


# *Sitotroga cerealella* Angoumois Grain Moth



FAMILY: Gelechiidae SUBFAMILY: Apatetrinae TRIBE:  
TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Meyrick (1895)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: *Sitotroga cerealella* is a small moth with an overall pale-straw to yellowish-brown color. The following description is based on that of Meyrick (1895) and Forbes (1923). The labial palp is generally similar in color to the rest of the body, with the second segment rough-scaled below. The terminal segment is longer than the second and is finely-scaled almost to the tip, which is often heavily-dusted with black scales. The basal segment of the antenna is long, and the shaft is straw-colored with dark-brown annulations. The head and thorax are pale-straw to yellowish-white, with the latter having three tiny black dots along the posterior fifth. The forewing is similar in color to the thorax, but sprinkled with brownish scales that create a slightly darker tone. The only conspicuous marks are two black spots (plical and outer discal), with the first occurring below the inner margin at around one-fourth the length from the base, and the second near the center of the wing at around two-thirds. Some specimens may have a black tornal dot, along with a faint line of blackish scales in the cilia. The hindwing is dusky-colored and trapezoidal in shape, with a concave outer margin that narrows to a sharply-pointed apex.

DISTRIBUTION: This species is found throughout the world in agricultural and urban settings where humans grow and store grain and grain products. In North America, it occurs in British Columbia, Alberta and California, as well as in most of the eastern US and adjoining areas of southern Ontario and Quebec. The range in the eastern US extends from Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New York and Pennsylvania southward to central Florida, and westward to Mississippi, Louisiana, western Tennessee, western Kentucky and Illinois. This species is generally found east of the Mississippi, although there are a couple of records from central Texas. As of 2025, we have a few scattered records from throughout the state.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults can be found year-round in subtropical and tropical regions, and during the warmer months of the year in more northern climates. When attacking cereal or other grain products in homes, they can be found year-round. As of 2025, we have only a few records and all are from November.

HABITAT: Local populations are generally found in association with agricultural crops and stored grains, as well as grain products such as cereals and rice products.

FOOD: Larvae feed on stored grains of various sorts, including maize, barley, millet, rice, wheat, and sorghum (Robinson et al., 2010).

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights and can be found in and around stored grain.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR SNA

STATE PROTECTION: Has no legal protection, although permits are required to collect it on state parks and other public lands.

COMMENTS: This is an introduced pest and is of no conservation concern.