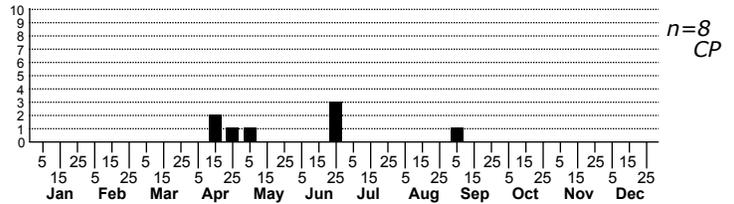
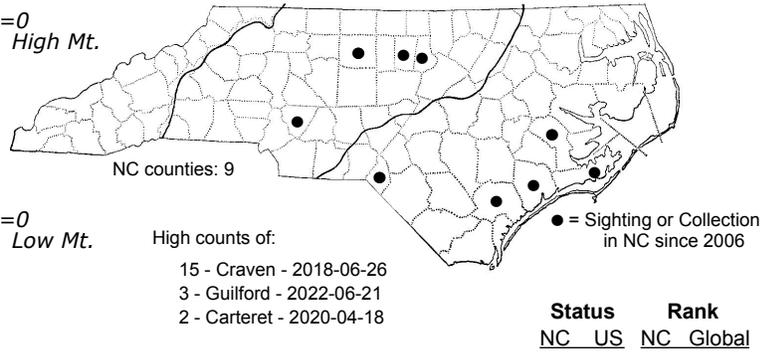
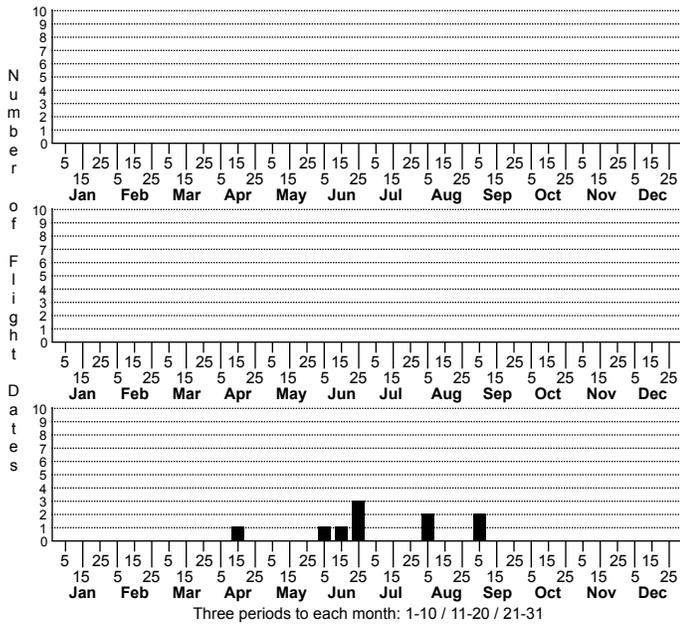


Helcystogramma melanocarpa None



FAMILY: Gelechiidae SUBFAMILY: Dichomeridinae TRIBE:
 TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Hodges (1986, as *Helcystogramma melanocarpum*)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: *Helcystogramma melanocarpa* is a distinctive species with a light grayish-orange forewing that has three prominent dark-brown to blackish spots, along with a series of seven or eight dark-brown spots around the outer margin. The following detailed description is based mostly on that of Hodges (1986).

The labial palp is long, recurved and finely-tapered, with the tip reaching to the back of the head. The first and second segments are grayish-orange, while the third segment is a lighter orangish-white, with darker tipped scales on the outer surface. The frons, antennal shaft, head and vertex are all more-or-less grayish-orange and concolorous with the ground color of the forewing.

The veins of the forewing are weakly to moderately outlined with a pale straw color, and there are three prominent, rounded, dark-brown to blackish spots. These include a pair at around one-half the wing length (with one just beyond one-half the length of the cell; the second at two-thirds the length of the fold), and a larger spot at around three-fourths at the end of the cell. The only other conspicuous marks are a series of seven or eight dark-brown spots around the outer margin that may be poorly defined in worn specimens. The hindwing is light orangish-brown to brown, while the legs are predominantly orangish-brown, but more whitish on the dorsal surfaces.

DISTRIBUTION: *Helcystogramma melanocarpa* is found throughout the eastern US and in adjoining areas of southern Canada (Manitoba; Ontario; Quebec; New Brunswick; Nova Scotia). Pohl et al. (2018) also report records for British Columbia. In the US, this species ranges from Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont southward mostly along coastal regions to northern Florida, then westward to Louisiana, eastern and central Texas, central Oklahoma, eastern Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin. As of 2025, all of our records are from the eastern Piedmont and Coastal Plain.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: Our records come primarily from wet, open herblands, including Sandhill Seeps, Longleaf Pine Savannas, and wet, marshy areas in the Piedmont.

FOOD: Larval host plants appear to be unknown, but Hodges states that "*Helcystogramma* larvae are leaf rollers and tiers on Gramineae, Convolvulaceae, and Compositae" (Hodges, 1986).

OBSERVATION_METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S3S4

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

COMMENTS: