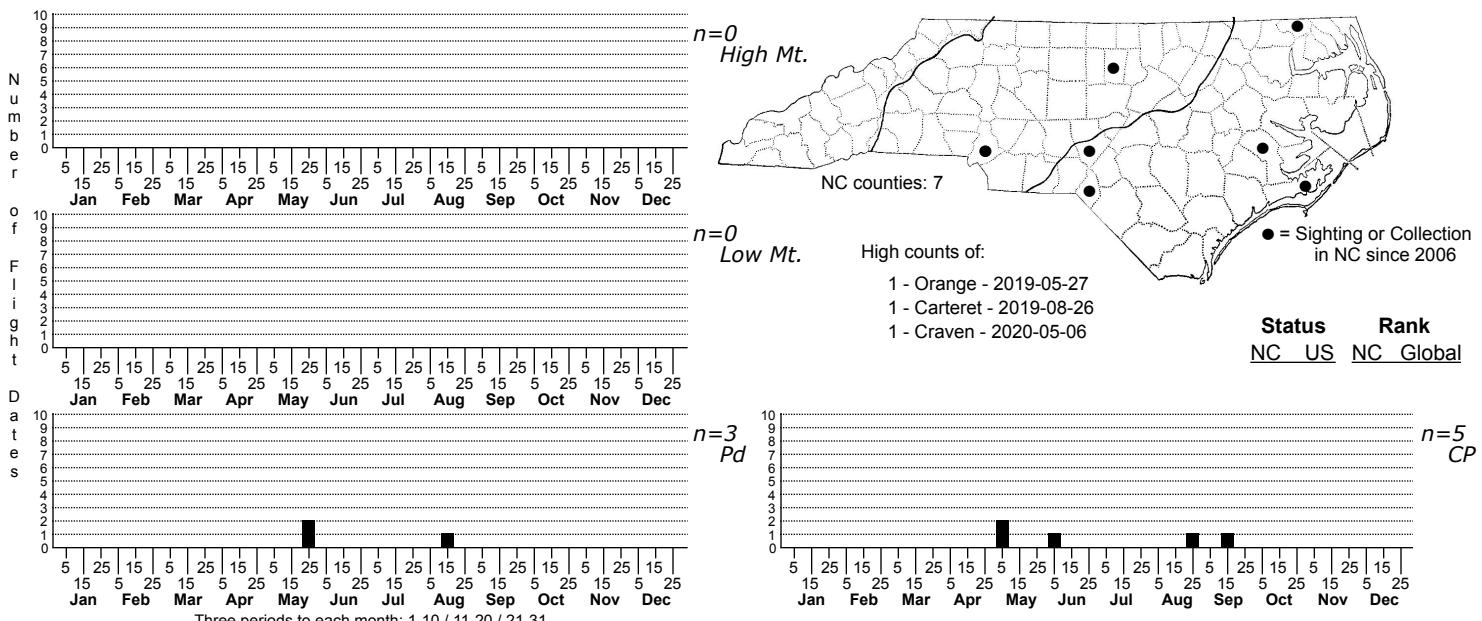


Pseudotebenna carduiella None



FAMILY: Choreutidae SUBFAMILY: Choreutinae TRIBE:

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: Heppner (2023) recently placed *Tebenna carduiella* into a new genus (*Pseudotebenna*) based on differences in genitalia and wing venation when compared with other members of the genus *Tebenna*. It is the only member of this genus in North America, with one other suspected member known from Japan.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Heppner (2023)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Kearnott (1902)

ID COMMENTS: The following description is based on that of Heppner (2023). The head and palps are grayish-brown with white-tipped scales, while the antennae are white with blackish-brown annulations. The thorax is grayish-brown with white-tipped scales, and often with a small orange band on each side. The forewing ground is dark brown with white-tipped scales at one-third and distally that form diffuse vertical or oblique frosted bands. The wing base has a longitudinal orange streak on the costal half, while the dorsal half is dark brown with scales that are sometimes white-tipped. The costa has a patch of dull orange and dark brown near the middle, with heavily frosted bands on either side. Large blackish blotches that have silvery metallic iridescent marks are present on the distal third of the wing. The fringe along the termen is pale white with a dark grayish-brown line in the middle. The hindwing is pale brown with a diffuse white submarginal crescent near the tornus. The fringe is white with two broad brown lines.

The adults closely resemble *Tebenna gnaphaliella* and are best distinguished by the single orange streak at the forewing base versus two bars in *T. gnaphaliella*. These species also differ in wingspan, with *T. gnaphaliella* being smaller (7.4-10 mm) than *Pseudotebenna carduiella* (11.5-14 mm).

DISTRIBUTION: *Pseudotebenna carduiella* is largely restricted to the southeastern US where it occurs from New Jersey southward to southern Florida, and westward across the Gulf States to eastern Texas. There is also one isolated record from central Illinois (Heppner, 2023). As of 2023, all of our records are from the Coastal Plain and Piedmont.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Local populations appear to have at least two generations per year in southern regions such as Florida, while some northern populations appear to be single-brooded. As of 2023, our limited records are from April and May, and again in August, which suggest that two broods are produced by some populations in North Carolina.

HABITAT: Local populations are dependent on thistles and are typically found in open habitats such as woodland borders, old fields, grazed pastures, roadways, and coastal pine savannas.

FOOD: The reported host include Common Yellow Thistle (*Cirsium horridulum*), Nuttall's Thistle (*C. nuttallii*), and Spiny Thistle (*C. spinosissimum*; Heppner, 2023).

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are active during the day and are weakly attracted to lights. The presence of larvae that are boring in thistle stems can be verified by searching for external frass deposits along the stems.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR SNR [S3S4]

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: This species appears to be uncommon in North Carolina. Additional information on host use, distribution and abundance is needed before we can accurately assess its conservation status.