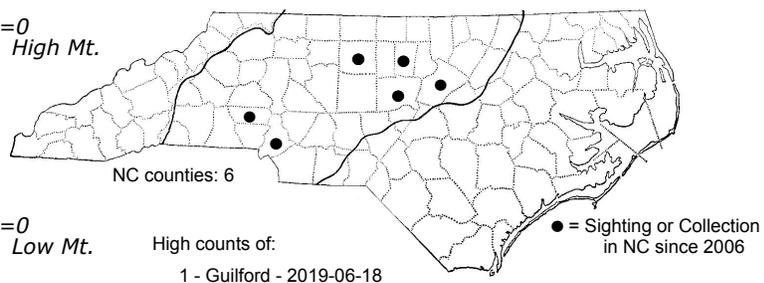
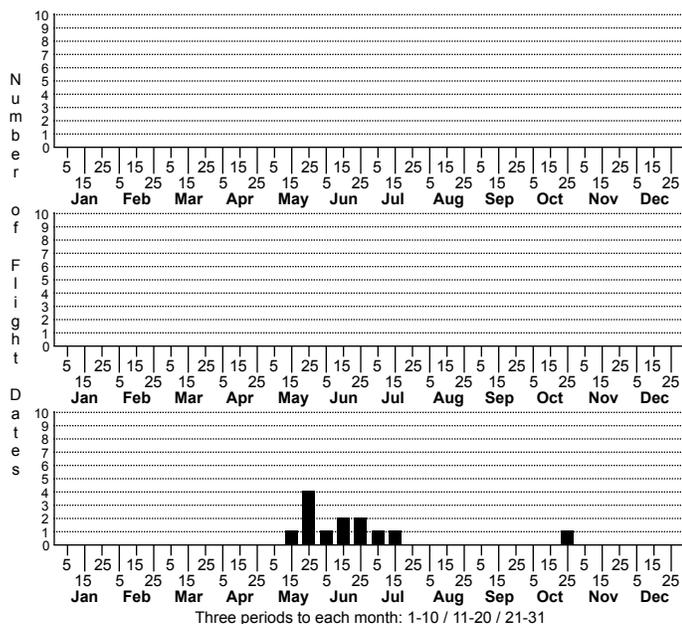
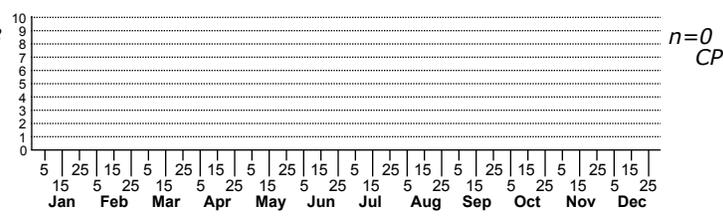


Bactra furfurana Rush Bactra



High counts of:
 1 - Guilford - 2019-06-18
 1 - Wake - 2012-05-31
 1 - Guilford - 2021-05-17

Status		Rank	
NC	US	NC	Global



FAMILY: Tortricidae SUBFAMILY: Olethreutinae TRIBE: Bactrini
 TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:
 ONLINE PHOTOS:
 TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:
 TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: *Bactra furfurana* is a small clay-colored to light reddish-brown moth that typically has three dark marks near the base, middle and apical regions of the forewing, along with a series of alternating pale and blackish marks along the inner margin. The face, vertex, and thorax are more-or-less concolorous with the ground color of the forewing, which can vary from light clay to light reddish-brown. The forewing ground has scattered, diffuse, dark-brown to blackish spots, and usually has three large dark marks. These include, 1) an irregular, outwardly angulated fascia at around one-fourth the wing length from the base, 2) an outwardly oblique, irregular, median band that extends from the costa to just past the center of the wing, with the terminal portion bending sharply towards the apex, and 3) a dark, narrow band that runs from the apex towards the bent tip of the median band, where the two often come into close contact. These are variably expressed and can be reduced in size or even missing.

The costa has a series of paired, pale, posteriorly oblique strigulae along its length that become progressive more elongated towards the apex. The spaces between these are usually filled with darker coloration. The inner margin has alternating pale and blackish spots that extend from the near the basal one-fourth of the wing to near the tornus. The outer fringe is concolorous with the forewing ground color and has a darker band at the base, while the hindwing is light smoky brown to brownish-gray. *Bactra verutana* is the only other member of this genus in North Carolina and has two diffuse dark marks that do not extend to the costa.

DISTRIBUTION: *Bactra furfurana* is broadly distributed across all of southern Canada from British Columbia to Nova Scotia, and in the US from Maine southward to southern Florida and westward to California, Oregon and Washington. This species appears to be native to North America and Eurasia, but has been introduced elsewhere in the world. It has been recorded in South America, Eurasia, Africa, southeast Asia and India. As of 2025, our records are all from the eastern and central Piedmont.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been found year-round in Texas, and mostly from March through October elsewhere, except for the most northern populations where they fly for only two to four months during the summer. Populations in North Carolina appear to be univoltine. As of 2025, our records range from mid-May to mid-July, other than for one late-season record from late-October.

HABITAT: This species is commonly found in and around wetlands, as well as in agricultural fields and other disturbed sites where weedy species of nutsedges grow.

FOOD: Larvae feed on sedges and rushes (Disque, 1908; Forbes, 1923; Frick, 1985; Robinson et al., 2010). The documented genera that are used include flatsedges (*Cyperus*), spikerushes (*Eleocharis*), rushes (*Juncus*) and bulrushes (*Scirpus*). This species commonly uses Purple Nutsedge (*C. rotundus*) and Yellow Nutsedge (*C. esculentus*), which are two serious agricultural weeds that have spread globally. Much like *B. verutana*, the larvae likely use other native species of sedges, but as of 2025, these are undocumented. In England, the larvae feed inside the stems of Common Spikerush (*Eleocharis palustris*) and bunch-flowered soft rush (*Juncus conglomeratus*) (SuffolkMoths.com).

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights and the larvae can be found feeding in the fascicles of sedges and stems of rushes. Information is needed on host use in North Carolina.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S2S4]

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

COMMENTS: This is a somewhat uncommon species, with only 13 records as of 2025, and all from the eastern and central Piedmont.