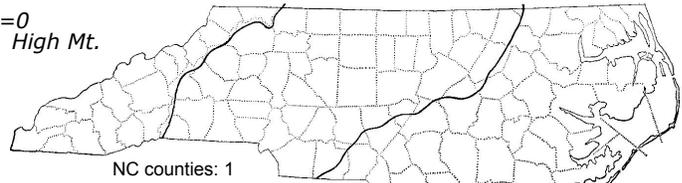
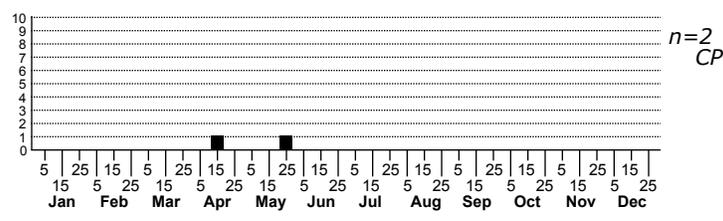


Bactra maiorina No common name



NC counties: 1
 High counts of:
 3 - New Hanover - 2024-04-17
 2 - New Hanover - 2023-05-21
 ● = Sighting or Collection in NC since 2006

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 maiorina* is a distinctive species in which the ground color of the forewing is yellowish-tan and overlain with a continuous, central, longitudinal fuscous shade from the base to the apex. The palps, head and thorax are concolorous with the forewing ground, and the costa has a series of short, pale strigulae from the base to the apex. The terminal fringe is concolorous with the forewing ground, and the outer margin has a thin line of alternating black and white marks. The antenna is reddish-brown, while the outer legs are dark-brown with yellowish-tan bands. The hindwing is smoky-brown.

Bactra priapeia is very similar to *B. maiorina*, but has longer strigulae along the costa and a line along the outer margin that is not as conspicuously marked with alternating black and white patterning. We recommend dissecting any *Bactra* specimens that have the longitudinal fuscous shading along the forewing.

DISTRIBUTION: *Bactra maiorina* has been found at scattered locations across the US and Canada, including California, Arizona, and Colorado in the West, and from Alberta eastward to Quebec and New Brunswick in southern Canada. Populations in the eastern US are mostly found in coastal regions from southeastern Texas to Florida, and northward along the Atlantic Coast to Maryland and Pennsylvania. A second group is centered around the Great Lakes region where it extends from northern Ohio westward to Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa and Nebraska. As of 2025, we have a single record from New Hanover County.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been documented from March through October in different areas of the range, with a seasonal peak in June and July. As of 2025, our two records are from mid-April and late-May.

HABITAT:

FOOD: The larval hosts are poorly documented, but sedges appear to be the primary hosts (Cole, 1930; Brown et al., 2010). Cole (1930) reported that an adult emerged from the head of a Broadleaf Cattail (*Typha latifolia*) and Forbes (1923) listed "*Scirpus* and grass" as hosts. Another reported host is River Bulrush *Bolboschoenus* [= *Scirpus*] *fluviatilis* (Diakonoff, 1964).

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S1S2]

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

COMMENTS: This species appears to be rare in North Carolina where we have a single site record as of 2025.