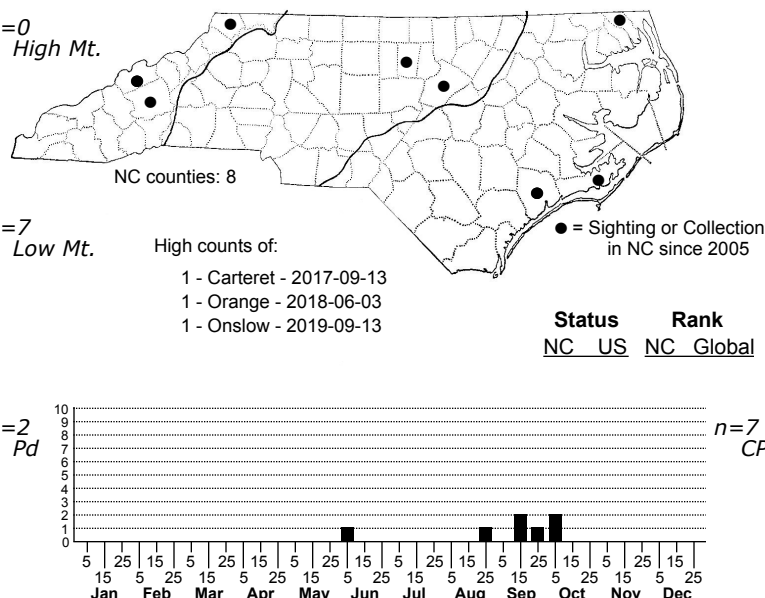
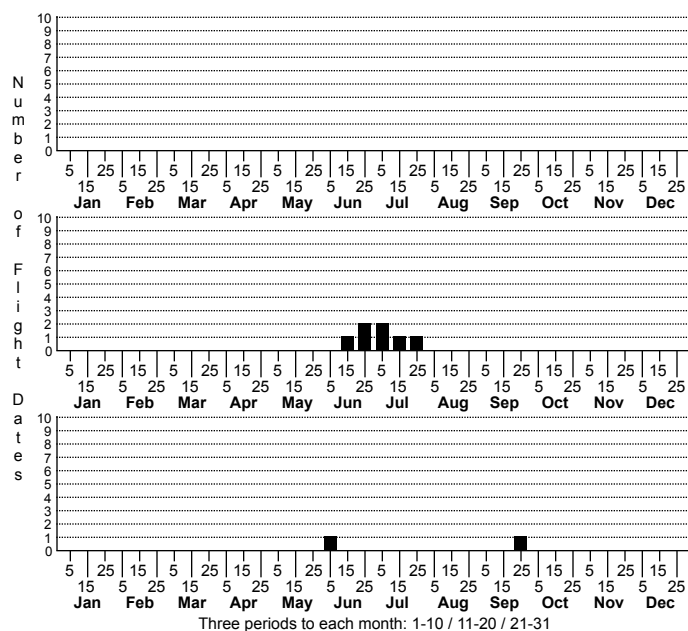


Mea skinnerella None



FAMILY: Tineidae SUBFAMILY: Meessiinae TRIBE: [Meessiini]

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: This is one of two species in this genus that occur in North America north of Mexico (Pohl et al., 2016), both of which have been recorded in North Carolina.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1923)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The following description is based primarily on those of Dietz (1905) and Forbes (1923). The palps and face are blackish and the upper half of the head pure white. The antenna has a whitish base that fades into fuscous brown for the remainder of its length. The thorax is white. The ground color of the forewing is also white, but often has a dull orangish to tannish wash that is most concentrated on the apical half. The costa has a narrow, irregular black border that extends to about four-fifths its length. The black border has three inward bulges, including one at the base, a second just before the middle, and a third at about four-fifths. A black spot or small blotch is usually present just below the apex, and a small black spot is present just above the posterior edge of the middle costal bulge. The cilia are orangish to tannish, with dark brown scattered scales, and one or two irregular dividing lines. The hindwing is grayish fuscous with yellowish fuscous cilia. The front and middle legs are blackish with narrow whitish bands at the tarsal joints. The hind legs are lighter and tinged with gray and fuscous. The abdomen is pale grayish fuscous with a yellowish-white anal brush.

DISTRIBUTION: *Mea skinnerella* is found in eastern North America from Quebec, Maine, and Vermont southward to northern Florida, and westward to Louisiana, western Tennessee, Ohio, and Illinois. As of 2020, our records are mostly from the Coastal Plain and eastern Piedmont, with one record from a lower elevation site in the western mountains.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Adults have been recorded from April through October in areas outside of North Carolina, with a seasonal peak in activity in July. As of 2020, our records extend from early June through early October, with Coastal Plain records most common in late summer.

HABITAT: The habitats are poorly documented. The larvae presumably do not feed on living vegetation and do not depend on specific host plants.

FOOD: Like most North American tineids, the larvae and their food resources have never been reported. The larvae presumably feed on either detritus or on living fungi and lichens.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults appear to only occasionally visit lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR SU

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

COMMENTS: We have only six site records as of 2020, which suggests that this species is either uncommon or is not strongly attracted to lights. Additional information on its distribution and abundance is needed before we can assess its conservation status.