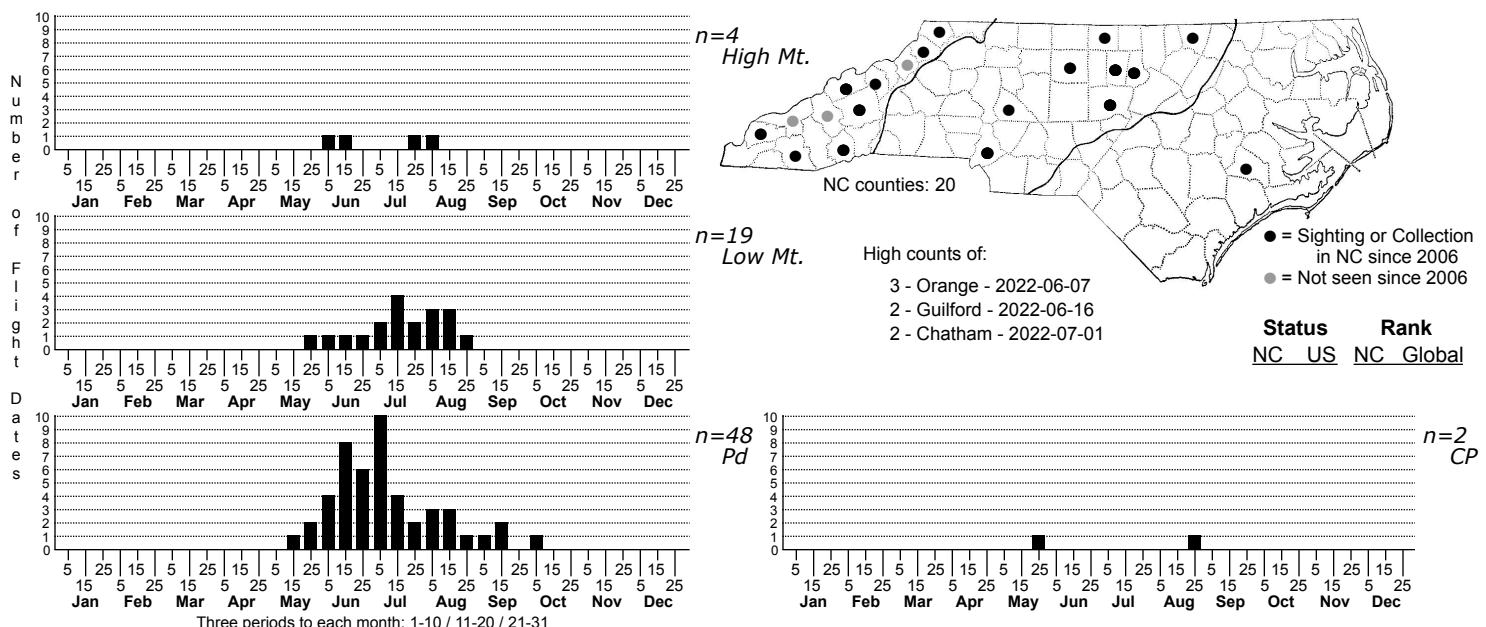


Amydria effrenatella Brown-blotched Amydria



FAMILY: Tineidae SUBFAMILY: [Acrolophinae] TRIBE: [Acrolophini]

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: <i>Amydria</i> is a taxonomically challenging genus and in need of a major revision. There appear to be numerous undescribed species in North America, as well as several described species that have very similar external markings. Several forms that appear to be undescribed species occur in North Carolina (J.B. Sullivan, pers. comm.), as well as at least three described species. Identification is most reliable when using either genitalia and/or molecular barcoding. Except in instances where genitalia have been examined, our assignment of specimens to particular species is best viewed as being provisional.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Dietz (1905)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The following description is based in part on that of Dietz (1905). The general color is ocherous. The head crest varies from dirty white to light tan, while the antenna is robust, slightly more than one-half the wing length, with closely-set segments. The labial palp is curved and pointed, with a whitish terminal segment that terminates above the head. The dense brush on the labial palp is dark gray to blackish on the bottom and whitish near the top. The thorax and ground color of the forewing vary from dull white to light ocherous yellow, and are overlain with varying amounts of darker flecking and spotting. The forewing is rather wide, with the costa mildly curved from the base and again towards the rounded apex. The basal portion of the dorsal margin has groups of dark fuscous scales that are sometimes aggregated into more or less, transverse strigulations. The apical half of the dorsal margin has a series of small, dark spots that continue around the outer margin onto the costa where they can often extend nearly to the base. The costa typically has four relatively large, dark marks, including a dark blotch at the base, a large spot or patch at around one-fourth the costal length, and a pair of spots or patches at around three-fifths. The latter two adjoin a relatively large blotch near the center of the wing that often is connected to one or both of the costal spots. Additional dark marks include two or three, short, longitudinal streaks or blotches in the basal half of the wing towards the middle, and a small sub-tornal spot. The hindwing varies from gray to light brown and is unmarked.

DISTRIBUTION: As currently recognized, <i>A. effrenatella</i> is widely distributed across much of the US and southern Canada. This species is likely a species complex (see BOLD), and the range of the forms that occur in the eastern US are poorly documented.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults are most commonly on the wing from May through September, but can be active nearly year round in Alabama and perhaps other southern locales. As of 2024, our records extend from mid-May through early-October.

HABITAT:

FOOD: The larval food resources are unknown. Other species in this genus are reported to feed on detritus.

OBSERVATION METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS:

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

COMMENTS: