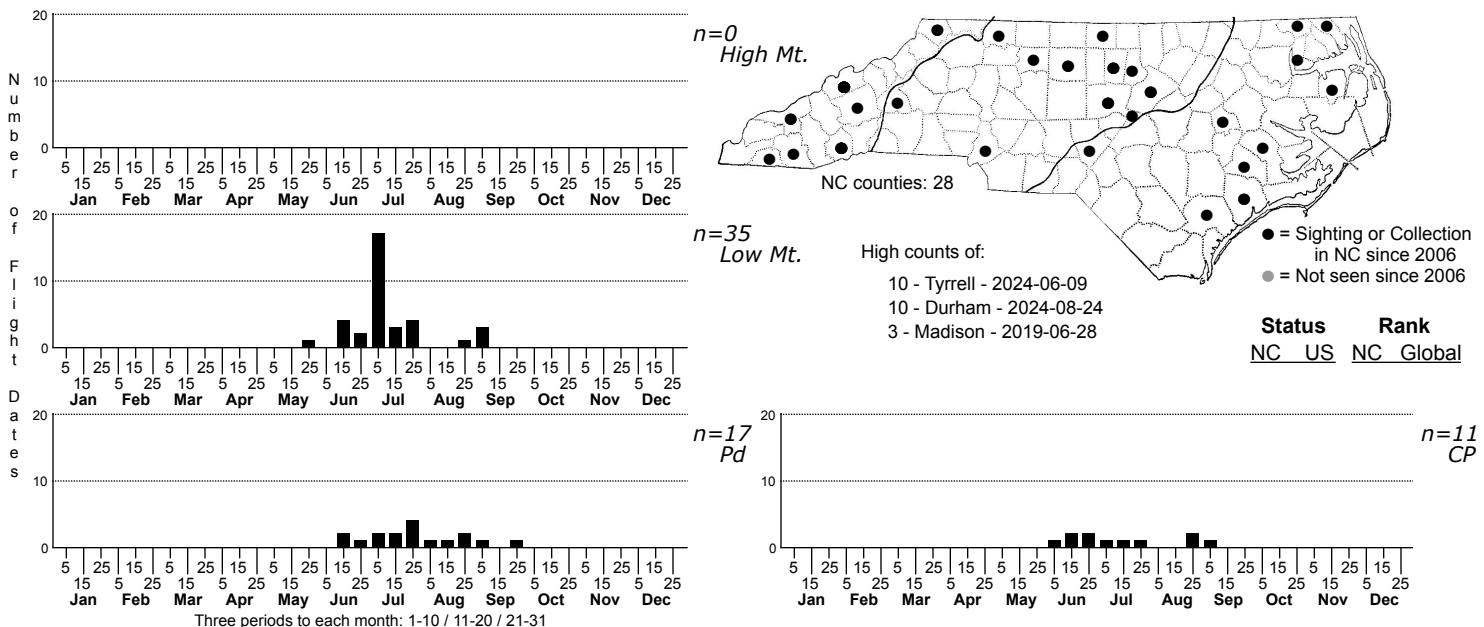


Chrysodetton medicinalis Bold Medicine Moth



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Acentropinae TRIBE: Nymphulini
TAXONOMIC COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Munroe (1972)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: This is a relatively small crambid. The thorax is coppery-colored with a prominent white scale tuft along each side. The forewing has a complex pattern that consists of a dark, ochreous ground color that is overlain with lighter, orangish-brown and white patches and lines. The white marks include 1) a sub-basal, broad band that extends from the inner margin obliquely outward before narrowing and terminating just before reaching the costa, 2) a median patch on the dorsal half that is followed by a short white line on the inner margin, 3) a white and often curved line at about three-fourths that slants rearward from the costa towards the tornus before terminating near the middle of the wing, and 4) a subterminal narrow band that parallels the termen and is followed by a parallel yellowish band. In addition to the white marks, light orangish-brown patches are present in the sub-basal region, in the subcostal region at around one-half, and between the median white patch and white oblique line at around three-fourths.

The basal half of the hindwing has similar marks as the forewing, with a broad, white basal band that is continuous with the one on the forewing. The posterior half differs in having a large white patch that is heavily sprinkled with brown scales, and a terminal line of five black spots with tiny bluish eyes. The spots are sometimes fused into a band and have small orange patches on their posterior edges. The fringe on both wings is white with a dark brown basal line. *Chrysodetton imitabilis* is generally similar to *C. medicinalis*, and is most easily distinguished by the absence of the white line at about three-fourths that slants towards the tornus, and the triangular-shaped basal patch that is represented as a broad band in *C. medicinalis*.

DISTRIBUTION: *Chrysodetton medicinalis* is found in southern Ontario and the eastern US from New York and Pennsylvania southward to southern Florida, and westward to Louisiana, southeastern Texas, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, eastern Missouri and Illinois. A few records are also known from Cuba and other Caribbean islands. This species occurs statewide in North Carolina.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults fly year-round in Florida and from April through October elsewhere, with a seasonal peak typically in June through August. As of 2023, our records extend from late-May through early September.

HABITAT: Our records are mostly from mesic to hydric habitats, and often in the vicinity of bodies of water.

FOOD: The food resources are undocumented but are suspected to be aquatic plants.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S3S4]

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

COMMENTS: *Chrysodetton medicinalis* occurs throughout the state and can be locally common, but more information is needed on its habitat requirements and food resources before we can fully assess its conservation status.