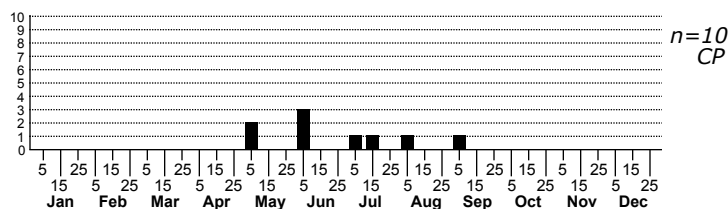
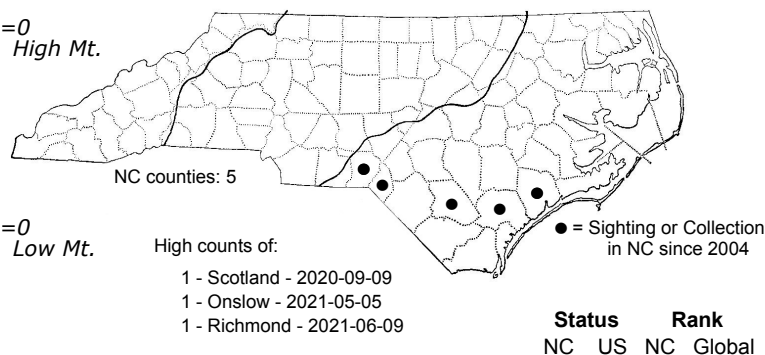


# *Neargyractis slossonalis* Dimorphic Leafcutter Moth



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Acentropinae TRIBE: Argyractini  
 TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS:

**FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:**

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Dyar (1906)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Habeck (1988)

**ID COMMENTS:** The following is based in part on the description by Dyar (1906). The head, thorax and antennae are brown, while the most distinctive feature on the forewing is a very broad sub-basal band at about one-third the wing length that is whitish with varying degrees of brownish dusting. The band is margined with a narrow, dark brown line on both sides and adjoins a brown, triangular patch at the wing base. The apical margin adjoins a region with a white ground color that is overlain with varying degrees of dark brown dusting. In some specimens this region may be organized as a broad brownish band. The apical third of the forewing has a narrow, oblique, whitish costal streak at about two thirds that extends inward to near the middle and projects towards the tornus. This is followed by a dark brown or orangish-brown subterminal costa blotch, then a second whitish costal streak that also project towards the tornus. The apical margin has a narrow orangish band that is margined inwardly with a thin line of dark brown scales.

The hindwing has a dark brown basal patch and a broad, whitish, sub-basal band with brownish dusting that matches similar marks on the forewing. One or two orangish blotches with blackish margins often adjoin the band apically, and a light yellowish to orangish blotch is often present at the tornus. The apical half of the hindwing has a broad whitish region that is peppered with blackish specks and a series of terminal black spots that are separated by metallic scales and set in a faintly orange terminal area.

*Neargyractis slossonalis* general resembles certain other crambids with complex wing markings and terminal black spots on the hindwing (e.g., *Petrophila canadensis*; *Eoparargyractis irroratalis*), but can be readily separated by the broad, sub-basal band on the forewing and hindwing.

**DISTRIBUTION:** *Neargyractis slossonalis* is mostly restricted to the southeastern US. The range extends from southeastern Massachusetts southward along the Atlantic Coast states to southern Florida, and westward along the Florida Panhandle to southern Alabama. Populations have been found in western Kentucky that appear to be geographic isolates. As of 2023, we have only a few records that are restricted to the southern Coastal Plain, including the Sandhills.

**FLIGHT COMMENT:** The adults fly year-round in Florida and mostly from May through September farther north. As of 2023, our records extends from early May to early September.

**HABITAT:** Local populations are generally associated with streams, rivers, lakes, and other habitats that provide food and shelter for the aquatic larvae.

**FOOD:** The larvae subsists on the young, submerged roots of vascular plants that grow along the banks of river and streams or in standing water habitats such as flooded ditches and lakes. Habeck (1988) found the larvae feeding on the roots of wild grapes (*Vitis* sp.), Ashes (*Fraxinus*), Cypresses (*Taxodium*) and Common Water-hyacinth (*Oshuna* (= *Eichhornia*) crassipes).

**OBSERVATION\_METHODS:** The adults are attracted to lights. Information is needed on the habitats and food plants that are used in North Carolina.

**NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS:** GNR [S2-S3]

**STATE PROTECTION:**

**COMMENTS:** This species appears to be uncommon within the state, but more information is needed on its distribution and abundance before we can accurately assess its conservation status.