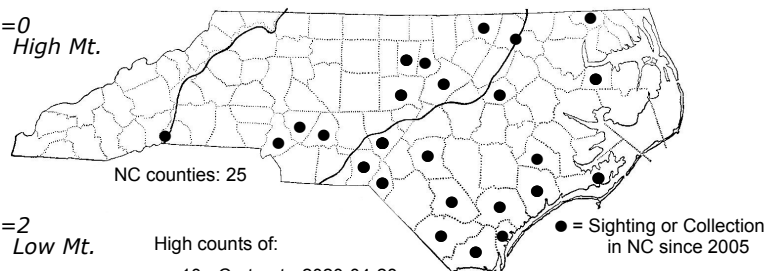
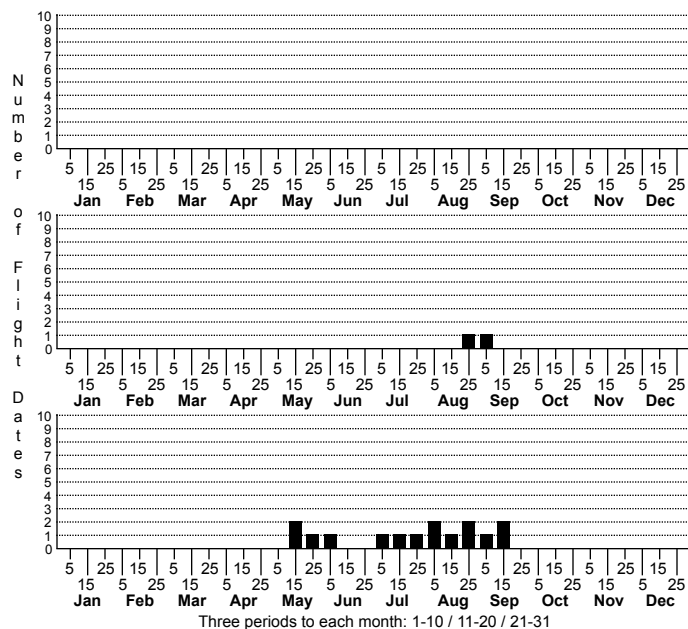


Eoparargyractis irroratalis Dewy Leafcutter Moth



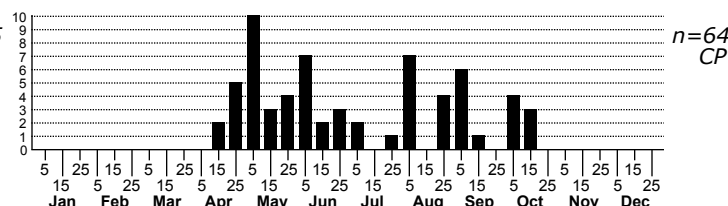
High counts of:

10 - Carteret - 2020-04-28

10 - Moore - 2021-05-10

5 - Moore - 2021-06-07

Status Rank
NC US NC Global



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Acentropinae TRIBE: Argyrectini
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Munroe (1972)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: This is a small but colorful moth that typically rests with the wings held tentlike over the body. The palps and head are mostly whitish, while the forewing has a white ground color that is overlain with complex patterning. The basal half has a narrow inwardly curved brown line at the base that is followed by a broad zone of brown dusting in the submedial region. The dark brown median line is narrow and outwardly angled. Following this is a broad zone with dark brown speckling that is followed by a set of brown and white lines and bars that radiate from the tornus. Most of these widen to become wedge-shaped as they project to the costa. The most conspicuous is a wedge-shaped brown or brownish-orange costal bar in the subapical region that is margined by a very narrow, curved, white line basally, and a much thicker, wedge-shaped, white bar apically. The final mark is an orange bar along the termen that is thinly lined with brown scales. The hindwing marks are generally similar to those of the forewing except that the set of brown and white line and bars that radiate from the tornus on the forewing are replaced by five black terminal eyespots that are flanked by smaller iridescent patches. The eyespots are partially embedded in and preceded by a band of orange to orangish-white wash.

Eoparargyractis irroratalis superficially resembles several other crambids such as *Petrophila canadensis* and *Neargyrectis slosonalis*. It is best distinguished by using a combination of features that include 1) the narrow, inwardly curved, brown line at the base of the forewing, 2) the wedge-shaped brown or brownish-orange costal bar in the subapical region that is margined by a very narrow white line basally, and a much thicker, wedge-shaped, white bar apically, and 3) eyespots on the hindwing that are preceded by a band of orangish to orangish-white wash. *Eoparargyractis plevie* is very similar but lacks the orangish wash in front of the eyespots. It was recently documented within the state in 2024.

DISTRIBUTION: *Eoparargyractis irroratalis* is found primarily in the southeastern US. The range extends from North Carolina westward to western Tennessee and southward to southeastern Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and Florida. A possible geographic isolate also occurs in Maryland. As of 2023, all of our records are from the Coastal Plain and Piedmont except for one low-elevation site in the foothills of the Blue Ridge.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults fly year-round in Florida and from March through October in Alabama and Georgia. As of 2023, our records extend from late-April through mid-October. Populations in the Coastal Plain of North Carolina appear to produce two broods per year.

HABITAT: The larvae are aquatic and are found in both sluggish streams and standing water habitats such as ponds and lakes.

FOOD: The host plants are undocumented, but this species is suspected of being an algae feeder.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights. Much more information is needed on the larval life history and ecology.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S4S5

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

COMMENTS: This is a locally common species that is affiliated with streams and wetlands; it appears to be secure within the state.