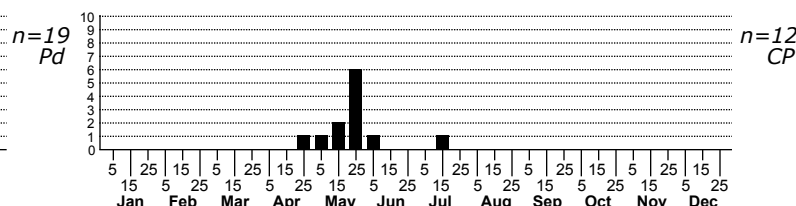
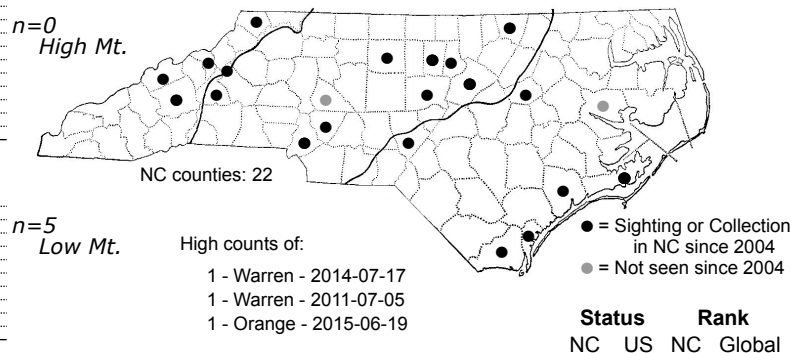
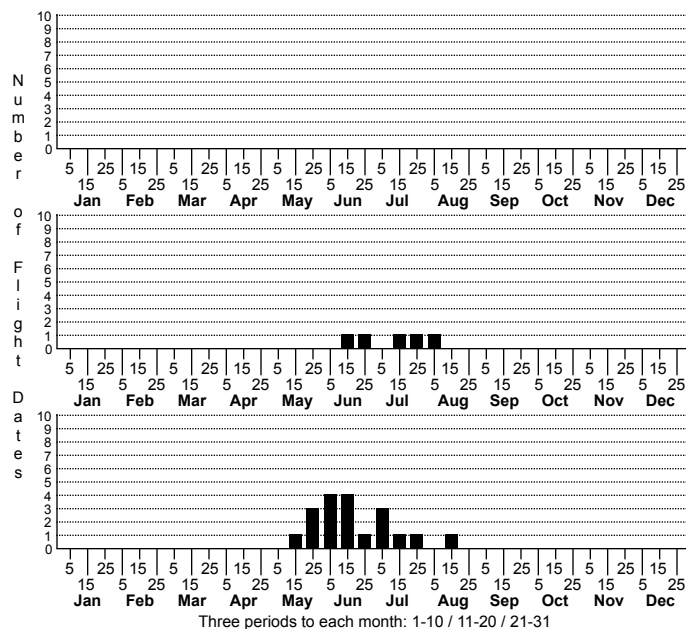


## *Eustixia pupula* Spotted Peppergrass Moth



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Odontiinae TRIBE: Dichogamini  
TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984); Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Munroe (1972)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Munroe (1972)

ID COMMENTS: This is a distinctively marked small moth with the head, thorax, legs, and ground color of the forewings and hindwings silvery white. The antenna and dorsal parts of the labial palp are black, while the forewing has a series of equally spaced, ink-black spots that cover most of the forewing. Three smaller spots are present in the middle of the subterminal area that form an outwardly bulging arc between two larger spots. The outer margin has a two triplets of small black spots — one near the apex and a second in the sub-tornal region. The hindwing is white with one or two lines of faint black spots near the outer margin.

DISTRIBUTION: *Eustixia pupula* is broadly distributed in the eastern US and in southern Ontario. The range extends from southern Maine and New Hampshire westward across the Great Lakes region to Wisconsin, Iowa and Nebraska, then southward to southern Texas, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and Florida. This species appears to be rare or absent from most of the Gulf Coast Coastal Plain from southern Georgia to Louisiana. In North Carolina, populations are relatively common in the Piedmont and lower elevations in the Blue Ridge, but rare in the Coastal Plain where it occurs in maritime habitats.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been observed from March through October in different regions of the US, with the peak flight from May through August. Local populations in North Carolina are univoltine, with the breeding season geared to the local phenology of Virginia Peppergrass. As of 2023, our records are from late-April through mid-August.

HABITAT: Local populations are generally associated with disturbed habitats that support peppergrass. Examples include waste places, gardens, cultivated fields, pastures, roadsides and construction sites.

FOOD: Virginia Peppergrass (*Lepidium virginicum*) is the native host, but Cabbage (*Brassica oleracea*) and Black Mustard (*B. nigra*) are occasionally used where these species are grown commercially.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights, and the larvae can be found on the developing seed heads of Virginia Peppergrass.

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 species appears to be relatively secure within the state.