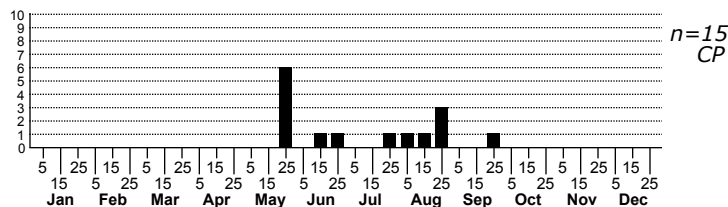
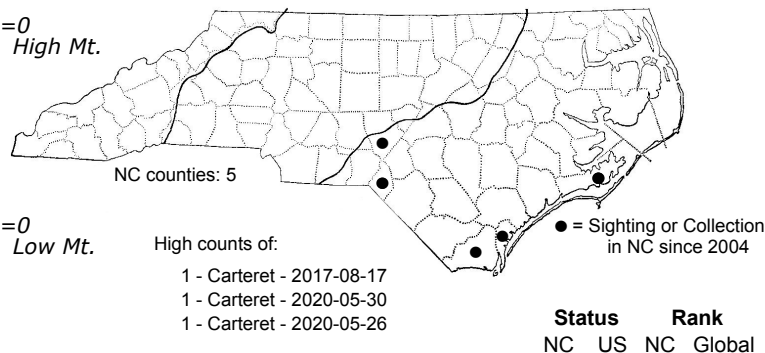
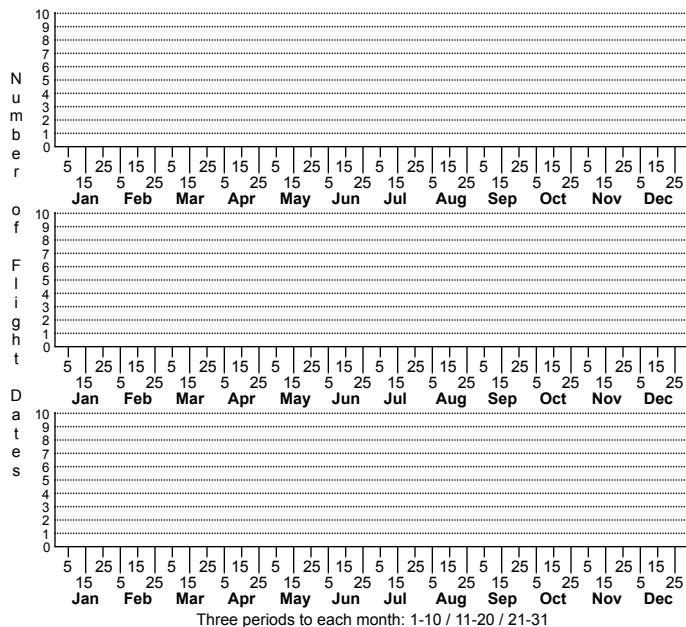


# *Microtheoris ophionalis* Yellow-veined Moth



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

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Beadle and Leckie (2012)  
 ONLINE PHOTOS:  
 TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Munroe (1972)  
 TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: This is a small, distinctive moth that has brick-red to brownish-red coloration on the head, thorax and ground of the forewing, along with prominent palps that project forward. The forewing has a curved, blackish PM line, a prominent yellow subterminal line, a blackish discal spot, and yellowish scales along the veins. The fringe is black and the hindwing dark gray. *Microtheoris ophionalis* is a wide-ranging species that shows substantial geographic variation in coloration. Five subspecies are currently recognized, with populations in North Carolina conforming to the description above.

DISTRIBUTION: *Microtheoris ophionalis* has a very large range that includes southern Canada, much of the US, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Guatemala, and northern South America. It is most commonly found in North America in a broad swath that extends from British Columbia southward to southern California and eastward through the Rockies and Great Plains to the Gulf Coast states and Florida. More scattered populations occur northward to North Carolina and the midwestern states. As of 2023, all of our records are from the southern Coastal Plain, including the Sandhills and maritime communities.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Adults in southern populations in the US mostly fly from February through October, while those in northern population are active from May through September. As of 2023, our records extend from late-May through late-August.

HABITAT: Populations in North Carolina are generally found in sandy, xeric communities.

FOOD: Despite being very widespread and common, the feeding ecology and host plants of this species (if any) are undocumented.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights and are occasionally seen during the day.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S2S4

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 reach its northern limits along the Atlantic Coast states in North Carolina, where it appears to be uncommon.