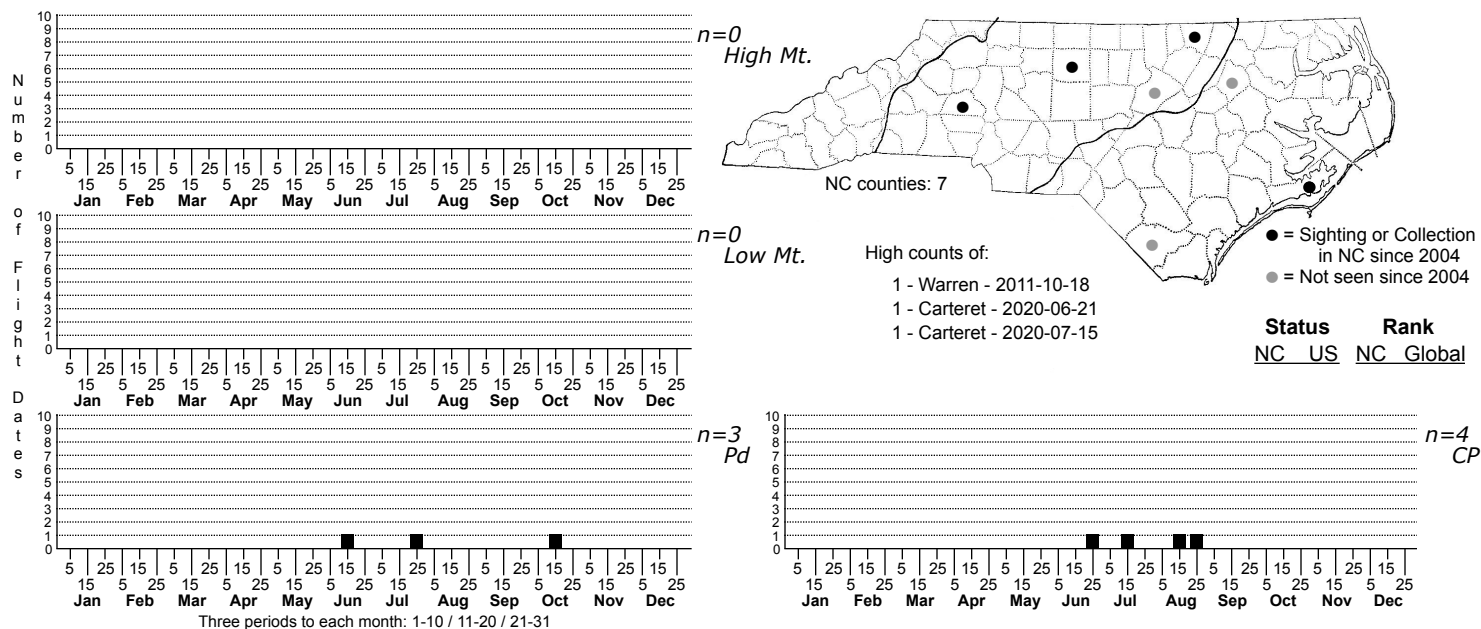


# *Hellula rogatalis* Cabbage Webworm Moth



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Glaphyriinae TRIBE: [Glaphyriini]

TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS: *Hellula rogatalis* is very similar to The Old World *H. undalis*, and was at one time thought to be the latter that was introduced to North America. The two species were confused until Capps (1953) documented marked differences in genitalia for both sexes.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Munroe (1972)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Shrestha and Webb, 2016

ID COMMENTS: The following is mostly based on the description by Forbes (1923) and Munroe (1972). This species has both dark and pale forms. The ground color is somewhat variegated and is concentrated in fairly wide basal, antemedial, medial and subterminal zones, with the last fragmented. In dark individuals the ground is olivaceous fuscous on a buff ground, compared with yellowish buff on a whitish-buff ground in pale individuals. The complete dark medial zone is characteristic of this species.

The ground is overlain with a series of wavy, whitish to pale buff lines that are faintly defined with black. These include a fragmentary basal line, a complete transverse antemedial line, and a strongly sinuous postmedial line that sharply bulges outward around the reniform spot. The reniform is somewhat broadly kidney-shaped and is dark fuscous throughout. A line of black terminal dots is present along the termen that is immediately preceded by a thin, even, whitish line. The hindwings vary from whitish to light fuscous.

DISTRIBUTION: The native range of *Hellula rogatalis* is poorly documented. It is native to North America, but has presumably expanded its range in association with the growth of commercial crops of cabbage, broccoli and other members of the Brassicaceae. It is currently found in the US across a wide swath from northern California eastward to Indiana, Ohio and Massachusetts. The range extends southward to southern Florida, southern Texas and southern California. This species also occurs in southern Ontario, and in most of Mexico, northern Guatemala and Puerto Rico. As of 2023, all of our records are from the Coastal Plain and Piedmont.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been observed year-round in the southernmost populations in the US, and mostly from August to October in northern populations. As of 2023, our records are from mid-June through late-August.

HABITAT: This species is a commercial pest and is generally associated with croplands.

FOOD: The Cabbage Webworm is a serious pest on commercially grown members of the Brassicaceae, including bok choy, broccoli, cabbage, Chinese cabbage, collard, kale, mustard, radish, rutabaga, shepherd's purse, and turnip (Shrestha and Webb, 2016). This species is native to North America, but the native hosts that were used prior to the production of commercial crops are poorly documented.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights and the larvae are common in field crops.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S3-S5]

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

COMMENTS: This species is relatively uncommon in North Carolina, but is of little conservation concern due to it being a serious crop pest in many areas of the country.