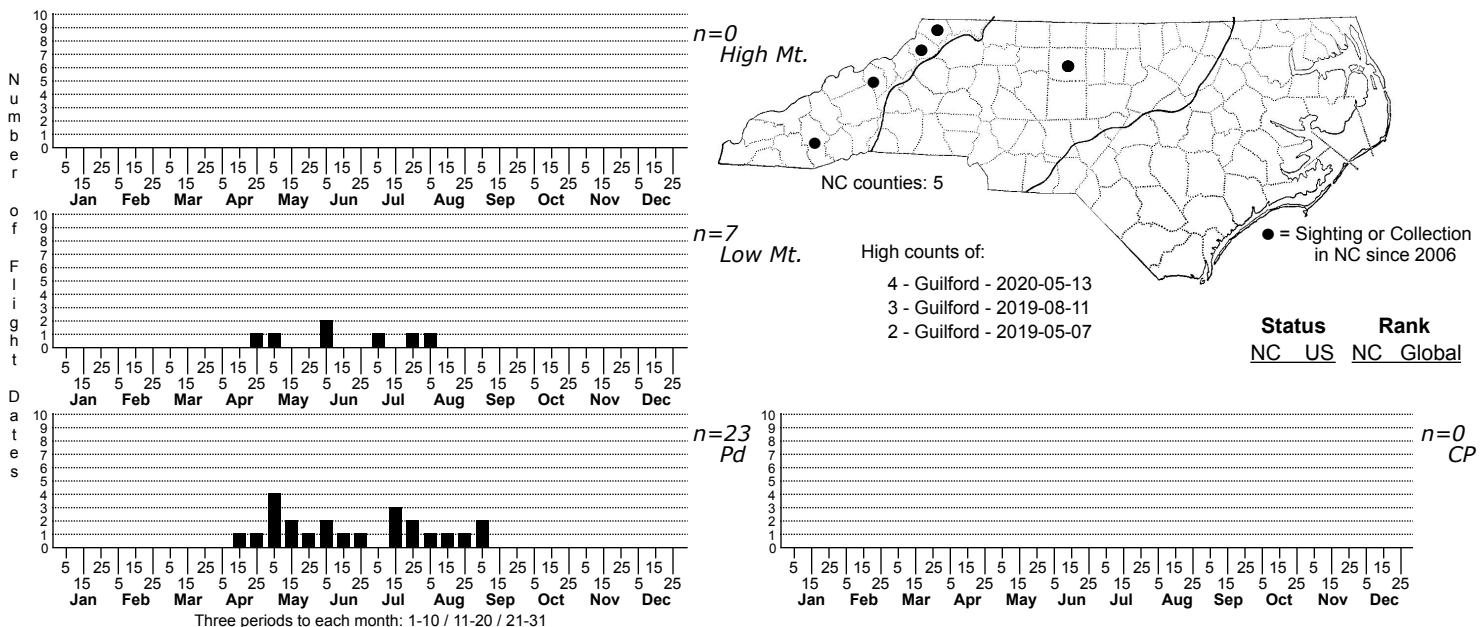


Chalcoela iphitalis Sooty-winged Chalcoela



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Glaphyriinae TRIBE: [Glaphyriini]

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Munroe (1972)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Rau (1941)

ID COMMENTS: This is an easily identified species based on the forewing coloration and patterning. The forewing has a light yellowish-brown ground color that is most evident near the wing base, along the costa, and at the apex. Most of the remainder of the wing consists of a dark rust-brown shade that is mostly overlain with a heavy grayish-white dusting. A small whitish arc is present at the apex and the fringe is brown. The hindwing ground color is light gray with a region of heavy grayish-white dusting that matches that on the forewing. A series of eight or nine staggered dark spots are present on the terminal margin.

DISTRIBUTION: <i>Chalcoela iphitalis</i> is a very wide-ranging species that occurs in British Columbia and from Quebec eastward to Nova Scotia. It has been observed in the U.S. over a wide swath from California and the Pacific Northwest eastward to the Atlantic Coast. Specimens have been found in every state in the conterminous U.S. except Georgia, South Carolina, Minnesota, South Dakota and North Dakota. As of 2023, our site records are all from lower-elevation sites in the Blue Ridge, except for one site in the Piedmont.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been found in every month of the year in different areas of the range, but most fly from April through September. Many populations appear to produce two broods per year, but southern populations may produce even more. One intensely sampled population in the Piedmont of North Carolina appears to be bivoltine.

HABITAT: Local populations exploit paper wasp nests and are generally found in urban or rural settings where they nest beneath the eaves of homes, warehouses, barns and other structures.

FOOD: Larvae are parasites of paper wasp larvae (Beadle & Leckie, 2018).

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights and can occasionally be seen resting near wasp nests.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S2-S4]

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

COMMENTS: As of 2023, we have only a few records for this species. It may have been undercollected due to its close association with paper wasps.