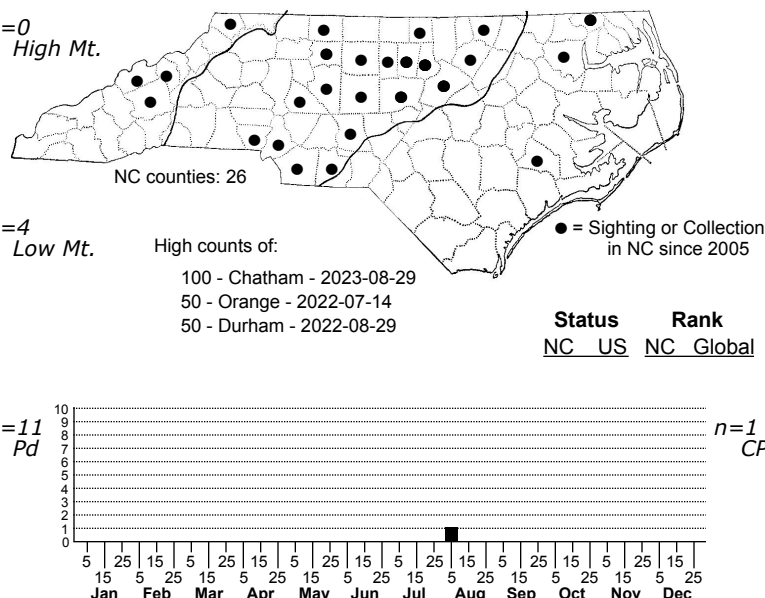
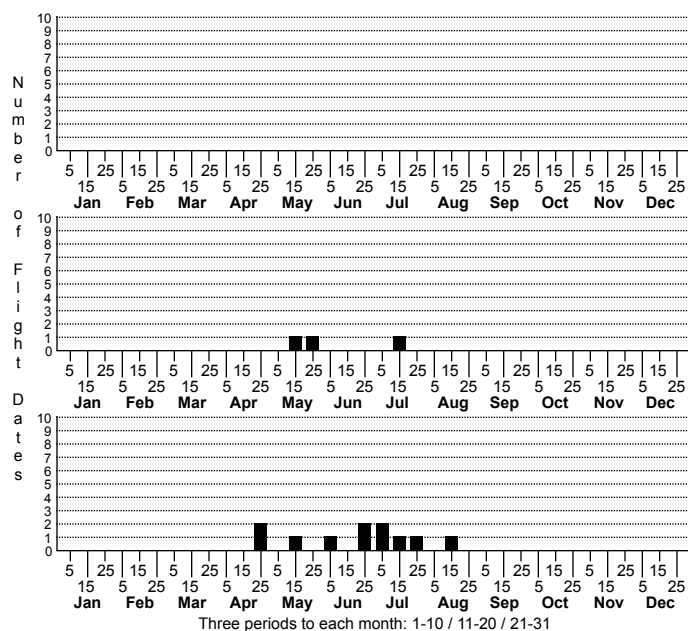


Saucrobotys futilalis Dogbane Saucrobotys



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Pyraustinae TRIBE: Pyraustini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: Munroe (1976) recognized two subspecies, with North Carolina specimens belonging to *Saucrobotys f. futilalis*

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Munroe (1976)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Allyson (1981)

ID COMMENTS: In this species the head, thorax, antennae, and forewing ground color are concolorous and vary from brownish fuscous to orangish brown. The transverse antemedial and postmedial lines are both dentate and dark brown, with the postmedial outwardly curved on the costal half, then slanting obliquely inward to the inner margin. The hindwing is whitish buff and sometimes narrowly infuscated at the outer margin. The postmedial line is faint and often not evident.

DISTRIBUTION: *Saucrobotys futilalis* is a very wide-ranging species that occurs across most of the U.S. and adjoining areas in southern Canada, where it occurs from British Columbia to Labrador and Nova Scotia. The range in the U.S. extends from the New England states southward to Florida, and westward to California and the Pacific Northwest. In North Carolina, this species is local common in the Piedmont where the host plant is present and far less common in the Blue Ridge. It appears to be rare in the Coastal Plain where we have only two site records as of 2023.

FLIGHT COMMENT: In the eastern U.S. the adults mostly fly from May through September in different areas of the range. As of 2023, our records are from late-April through mid-August.

HABITAT: This species specialized on dogbanes (*Apocynum* spp.) and local populations are found in the proximity of the hosts, which includes open and often disturbed habitats such as abandoned fields, roadsides, powerline clearings, and other grassy and early-successional habitats.

FOOD: The larvae feed on species of dogbane (*Apocynum*) (Robinson et al., 2010). Munroe (1976) noted that his colleagues found larvae feeding on Butterfly Milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) in Kentucky, but this seems to be an unusual record. In North Carolina, Indian-hemp (*A. cannabinum*) is the primary host, but Spreading Dogbane (*A. androsaemifolium*) is also presumably used in the mountains. In North Carolina, we have no records of *Saucrobotys* using milkweeds, and as of 2024 all of our feeding records are for Indian-hemp.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights, and the communal larvae and their webs are often conspicuous on dogbanes.

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 can be locally common where the host plants are present and appears to be reasonably secure in North Carolina.