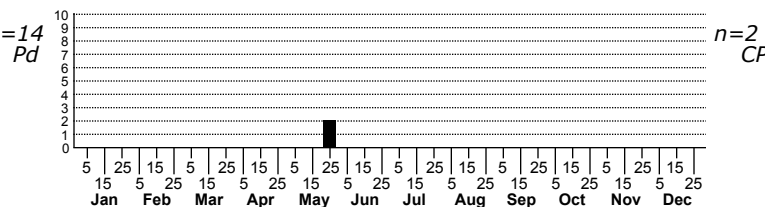
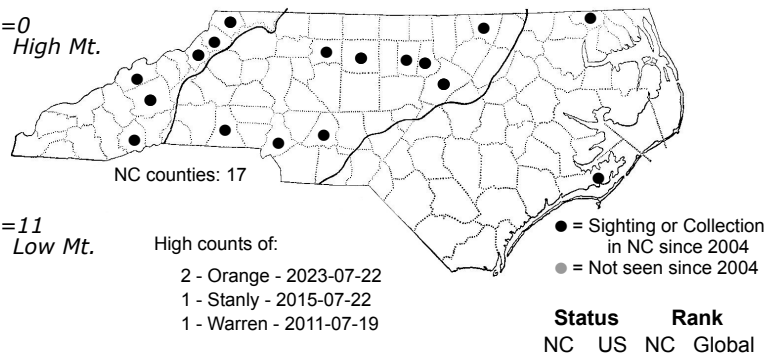
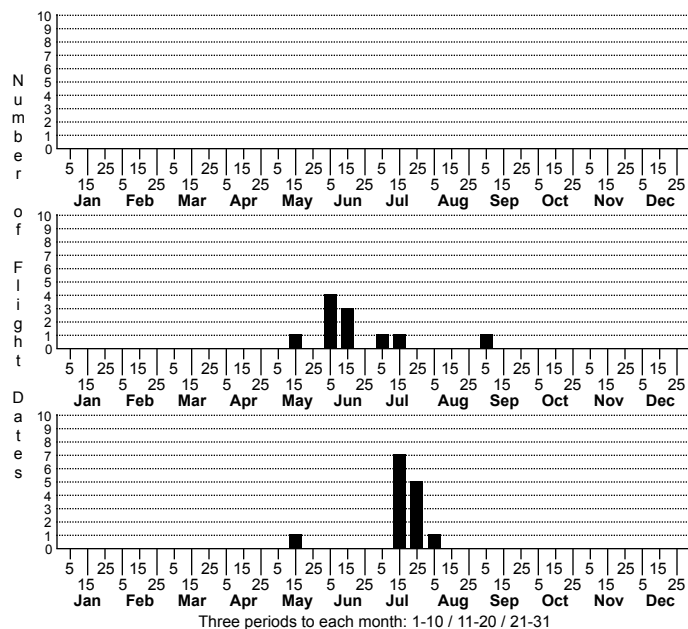


# *Crocidophora serratissimalis* Angelic Crocidiphora Moth



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Pyraustinae TRIBE: Pyraustini

TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS: The genus *Crocidophora* contains seven described species from North America and India. There are three recognized species in North America and all occur in North Carolina.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Munroe (1976)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The following is based in part on the description by Forbes (1923). The forewing ground is a pale straw-color and is overlain with dark brown lines, including on some of the veins. The antemedial line near the wing base is somewhat waved and oblique, and rather obscure in the male. The postmedial line is sinuous and deeply bowed near the middle of the wing, with patches of brown shading before it. The reniform is shaped like a dark bar, and the subterminal line is deeply toothed and runs nearly parallel to the outer margin. The terminal line is fine, continuous and brown. The hindwing has postmedial and subterminal lines that are similar to those of the forewing, but the postmedial is less sinuous and bowed. The fringe of both wings is the same or slightly darker than the ground color.

DISTRIBUTION: *Crocidophora serratissimalis* is found throughout much of the eastern U.S. and in adjoining areas of southern Canada (Ontario; Quebec; Nova Scotia). The range in the U.S. is from Maine southward to southern Georgia and westward to Arkansas, northeastern Texas, eastern Oklahoma, eastern Kansas, eastern Nebraska and Wisconsin. This species occurs statewide in North Carolina, although it is relatively uncommon in the Coastal Plain.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been documented from April through August in different areas of the range. As of 2023, our records extend from mid-May through early September.

HABITAT: Local populations are associated with a variety of wetlands, which are the preferred habitats of the host plants. Examples include freshwater marshes and fens, swamp forests, riverbanks and shorelines, and roadside ditches.

FOOD: The larvae appear to specialize on species of cutgrass (Putman, 1942; Munroe, 1976; Solis, 2008), and have been reared from both Rice Cutgrass (*Leersia oryzoides*) and White Cutgrass (*L. virginica*).

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: The adults are attracted to both building lights and UV-lights. We welcome additional information of the larval ecology and life history.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S3S4

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

COMMENTS: This species is typically found around wetlands and is of some concern given the historical loss of wetlands within the state.