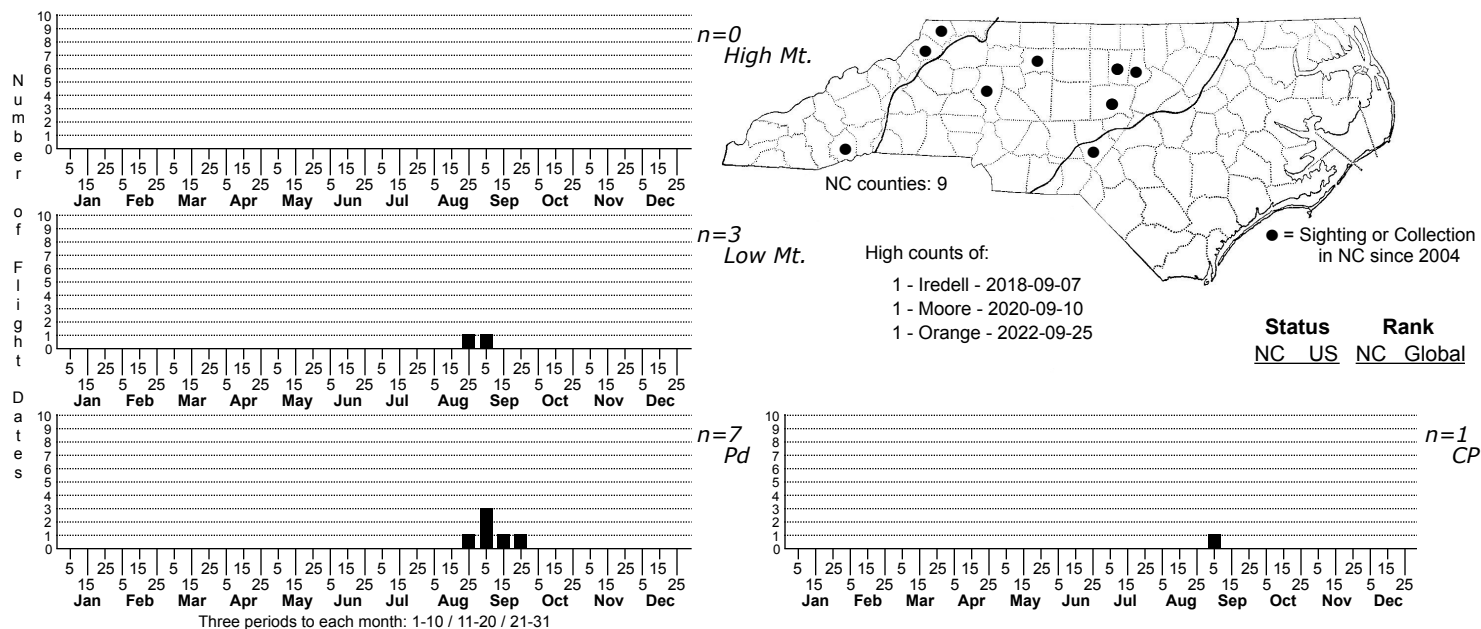


Fumibotys fumalis Mint Root Borer Moth



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Pyraustinae TRIBE: Pyraustini
 TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Munroe (1976)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The following is based in part on the descriptions by Forbes (1923) and Munroe (1976). The body of this species is fairly robust and the forewing is wider than that of our *Ostrinia* species, with the costa strongly arched at the base. The ground varies from fawn-colored to a darker smoky brown or chocolate brown. The antemedial and postmedial lines are dark and rather narrow, but strongly contrast with the ground. The antemedial is smoothly curved outward and only slightly irregular, while the postmedial is bowed and weakly dentate from the costa to about two-thirds the wing depth, where it then straightens and angles sharply to the inner margin. The reniform spot is linear and slightly curved, but is often obscured by a smudged blackish patch that is present between the antemedial and postmedial lines. The outer margin is straight anteriorly, then curves posteriorly to the tornus. The terminal line is narrow, but usually well defined, and the fringe is concolorous with the forewing ground.

The hindwing is lighter and grayer than the forewing, with a slightly wavy postmedial line that parallels the outer margin. A narrow terminal line is present that resembles that of the forewing, and the fringe is concolorous with the ground of the hindwing.

DISTRIBUTION: *Fumibotys fumalis* is a wide-ranging species that occurs across southern Canada from British Columbia to Prince Edward Island, and throughout a large portion of the U.S. It is most common in an area that extends from the New England states to northern Virginia, and westward through West Virginia, Ohio, Michigan and Ohio. Populations are more scattered in the remainder of the range that includes Florida, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, eastern Tennessee, Indiana, Illinois, and the Great Plains states from eastern Texas to Nebraska. Populations are also known from Colorado, California, the Pacific Northwest and Montana. As of 2023, most of our records are from the Piedmont and lower elevations in the Blue Ridge, with one record from the Sandhills.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults fly from May through November in different areas of the range, with a seasonal peak typically in July through September. As of 2023, our records range from late-August through late-September.

HABITAT: As of 2023, we have only 10 records, with most from relatively natural settings. Habitats where this species has been recorded in North Carolina include a stand of mesic hardwoods in the Blue Ridge, an area of mesic hardwoods located on the slopes around a reservoir in the Piedmont, and in from the edge of a blackwater floodplain in the Fall-line Sandhills.

FOOD: The larvae feed on the rhizomes of mints. The only documented host is Peppermint (*Mentha x piperita*), which is an exotic species that is grown commercially. Native species in the mint family are also presumably used, but we currently have no information regarding which native species serve as hosts.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S2S3

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

COMMENTS: