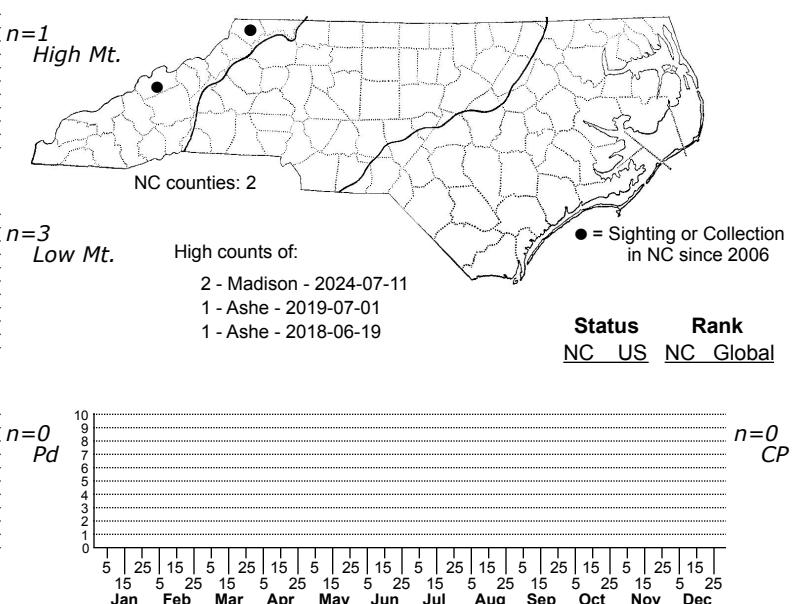
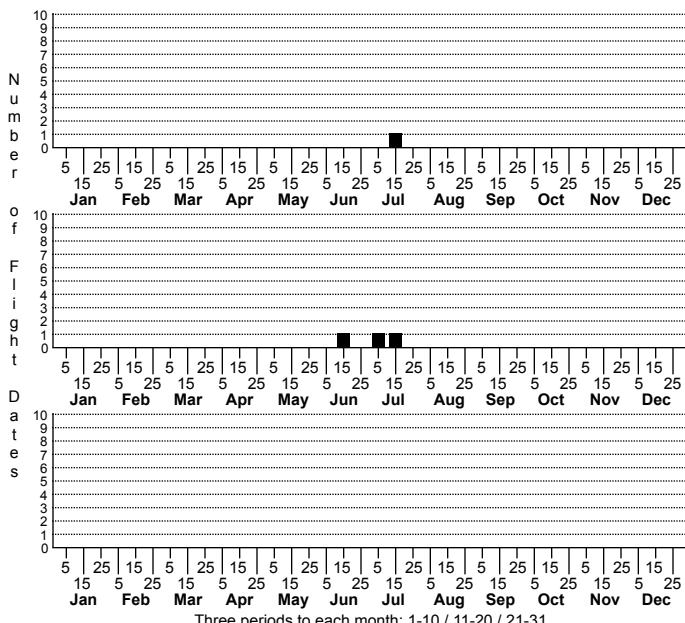


# Anania tertialis Crowned Anania



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Pyraustinae TRIBE:

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: <i>Anania coronata</i> has traditionally been treated as a Holarctic species with two geographically separated subspecies that occur in North America and the Palaearctic Region. Yang et al. (2012) examined variation in MtDNA and genitalia and concluded that this species actually contained four well-differentiated cryptic species. As currently recognized, <i>Anania coronata</i> is restricted to Europe, whereas three additional species occur in North America: <i>A. tertialis</i>, <i>A. plectilis</i> and <i>A. tennesseensis</i>. All three species are very similar in external patterning and coloration and are best identified using either genitalia or mtDNA barcoding. Size differences may be of some use, with <i>A. tennesseensis</i> being substantially smaller on average than the other two. However, the extent to which these species overlap in size needs additional study.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Yang et al. (2012)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Allyson (1981)

ID COMMENTS: The three members of the <i>Anania coronata</i> complex (<i>A. plectilis</i>; <i>A. tertialis</i>; <i>A. tennesseensis</i>) cannot be distinguished based on external morphology and patterning and require either genitalia or molecular markers (barcoding) for identification. They are all easily distinguished from other species by the pattern of contrasting pale areas on an infuscated ground. The following is a general description that applies to all based on descriptions by Munroe (1976) and Yang et al. (2012).

The ground color of the forewing is pale buff and is powdered or suffused with fuscous in most areas. Two strongly contrasting pale patches are present just before the postmedial line and in the subcostal area near the middle of the wing. Pale coloration also adjoins the outward edge of the postmedial line, which is fuscous and dentate in the median part of the line. The antemedial line is usually indistinct due to the heavy fuscous suffusion in the general area. Beyond the postmedial line there is a broad region of fuscous, dentate shading. The terminal line is fuscous and often broken between the veins, while the fringe is concolorous with the wing. The hindwing is generally similar to the forewing in terms of coloration and patterning.

DISTRIBUTION: <i>Anania tertialis</i> has the largest range of the three members of the <i>Anania coronata</i> complex. It is found in southern Alaska, almost all of southern Canada (British Columbia to Nova Scotia), in the Pacific Northwest, and in much of the eastern U.S. As of 2023, our only confirmed records based on genitalia are from a single site in Ashe County in the Blue Ridge.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been observed year-round in Florida, and mostly between May and September in other areas of the range. As of 2023, our records are from mid-June through mid-July.

HABITAT: The preferred habitats are poorly documented in the eastern U.S. Our one site record as of 2023 is from area with extensive early successional habitat and adjoining hardwood forest.

FOOD: Beadle and Leckie (2018) list alder (<i>Alnus</i>), hickory (<i>Carya</i>), elderberry (<i>Sambucus</i>), and <i>Viburnum</i>. We are unaware of the sources of these records and they may be erroneous due to this species recently being discovered to be a member of a sibling species complex.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS:

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: We have a single site record as of 2023 that may in part reflect the need for genitalia or barcoding for identification. Additional information is needed on the distribution, abundance and habitat requirements before we can assess the conservation status of this species.