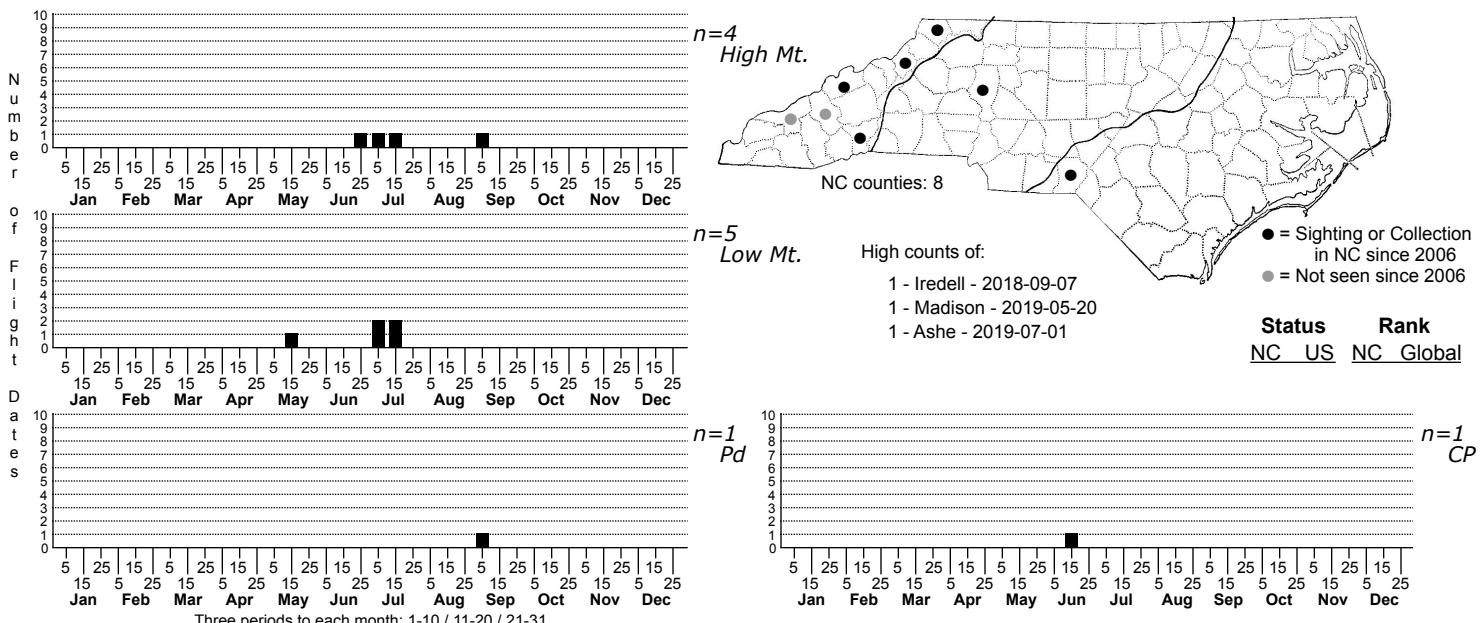


Anania plectilis None



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Pyraustinae TRIBE:

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: *Anania coronata* 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, *Anania coronata* is restricted to Europe, whereas three additional species occur in North America: *A. tertialis*, *A. plectilis* and *A. tennesseensis*. 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 *A. tennesseensis* 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:

ID COMMENTS: The three members of the *Anania coronata* complex (*A. plectilis*; *A. tertialis*; *A. tennesseensis*) 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.

This species appears to be larger than the other members of the complex, but additional measurements are needed for all three species in North Carolina and vicinity to determine the degree of overlap in size.

DISTRIBUTION: *Anania plectilis* is restricted to eastern North America, with specimens positively identified from Ontario, Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador in Canada, and from Minnesota, Illinois, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, North Carolina and Florida in the U.S. As of 2023, we have records from both the lower-elevations and higher elevations in the Blue Ridge, along with one record from the Piedmont.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Most records from throughout the range are from mid-May through mid-July. As of 2023, our records from the mountains are from mid-May through mid-July, with one Piedmont record from early September.

HABITAT: The habitats are poorly documented. We have records from mesic hardwood forests, meadows, and wooded residential communities.

FOOD: The host plants are poorly documented, but there is a BugGuide record (George Smiley, 2014) of a larva feeding on Common Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*).

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S2-S4]

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: This species appears to be uncommon in North Carolina, but additional information is needed on its habitat requirements and abundance before we can accurately assess its conservation status.