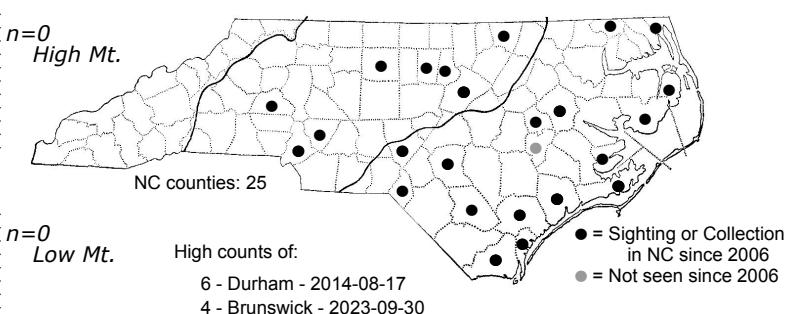
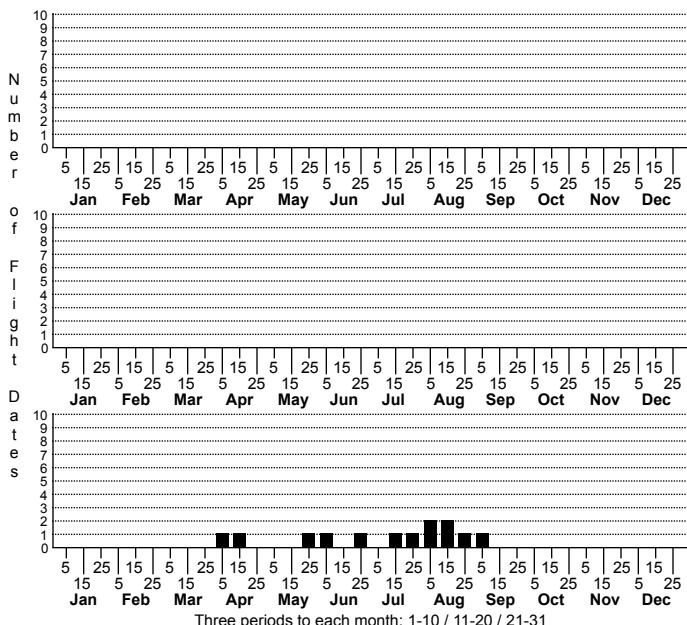
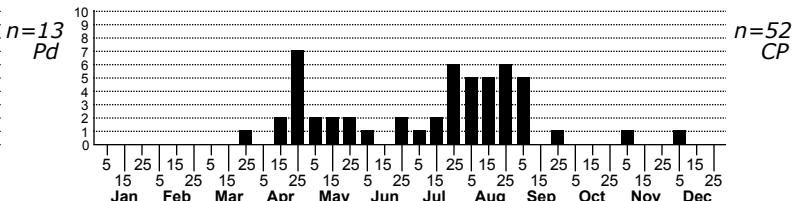


# *Achyra rantalis* Garden Webworm Moth



Status	Rank		
NC	US	NC	Global



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Pyraustinae TRIBE: Pyraustini  
TAXONOMIC COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984); Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Munroe (1976)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Capps (1967)

ID COMMENTS: The following description is based mostly on those of Capps (1967) and Munroe (1976). The ground color of the forewing can be various shades of orange, brown or fuscous, with the marking slightly darker than the ground color. The reniform spot is conspicuous and much larger than the orbicular spot. The antemedial line is rather smooth and irregularly angulated, while the postmedial line is denticulate and bowed outward on the costal two-thirds. Both lines can be rather weak and diffuse. The post-medial line is often shaded on the outer margin with a thin line of lighter color, and the area between the postmedial line and the termen is often lighter than the general ground color. The terminal line is broken and consists of a line of 7-8 dark spots. The hindwing is often paler than the forewing and the postmedial line, if evident, is diffuse. Females are usually somewhat darker than the males and tend to have stronger markings.

DISTRIBUTION: This is a very wide-ranging species that is found in almost every state in the conterminous U.S. except Wyoming, North Dakota and Montana, as well as in Canada (Ontario; Quebec; Nova Scotia), the West Indies and Mexico. As of 2023, all of our records are from the Piedmont and Coastal Plain.

FLIGHT COMMENT: As of 2023, we have records from late-March through late-September. Populations in the Coastal Plain are bivoltine, but those in other states such as Kansas and Oklahoma can have 3-5 generations per year (Smith and Franklin, 1954).

HABITAT: Local populations are commonly found around crop fields, home gardens, road corridors and other disturbed settings.

FOOD: The larvae are polyphagous and feed on both cultivated and non-cultivated plants (Smith and Franklin, 1954; Capps, 1967; Covell, 1984; Heppner, 2007; Robinson et al., 2010). They commonly feed on garden vegetables and cultivated crops such as alfalfa, amaranths, beans, black-eyed peas, clover, corn, cotton, cowpeas, radishes, soybeans, strawberries, sunflowers, sugar beets and Swiss chard. Other hosts include pigweeds (<i>Amaranthus</i>), Giant Ragweed (<i>Ambrosia trifida</i>), Common Ragweed (<i>A. artemisiifolia</i>), Spearscale Orache (<i>Atriplex patula</i>), Turtleweed (<i>Batis maritima</i>), Lambsquarter (<i>Chenopodium album</i>), guayule (<i>Parthenium argentatum</i>), smartweeds (<i>Polygonum</i>), roses (<i>Rosa</i>), docks (<i>Rumex</i>), sea-purslane (<i>Sesuvium</i>), thistles and undoubtedly many other kinds of weeds.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights, and the larvae are commonly found in vegetable garden and commercial field crops.

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 wide-ranging species is common in the eastern half of the state and appears to be secure, in part due to its use of cultivated and weedy plants as a food source.