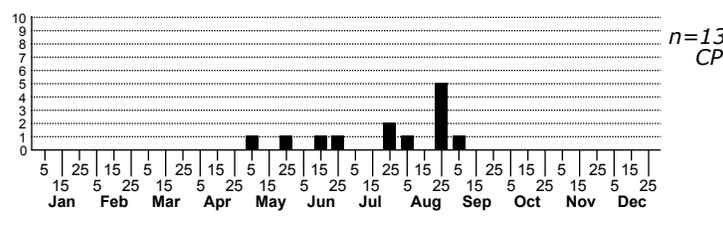
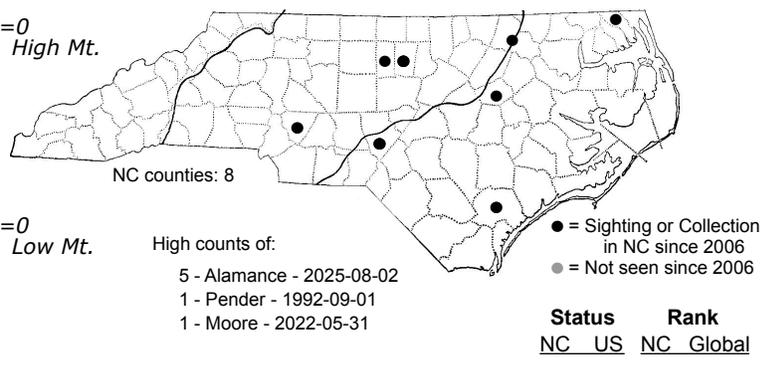
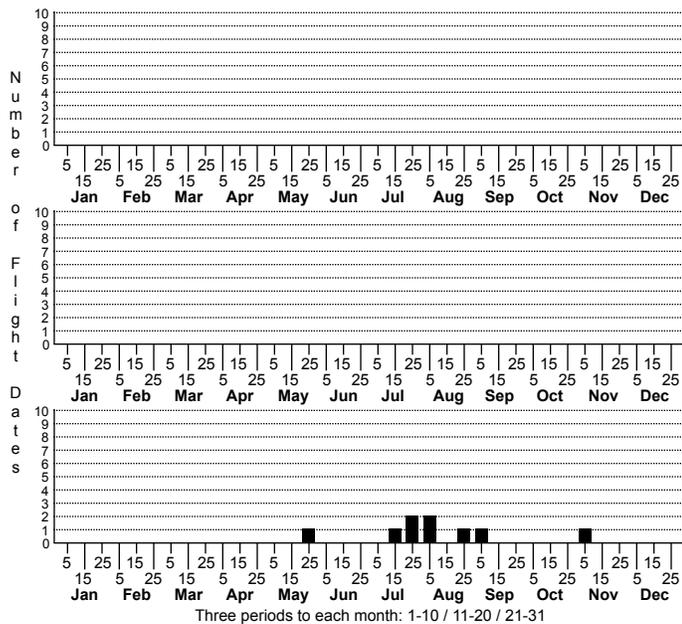


Neohelviotys neohelvalis Common Caramel Moth



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Pyraustinae TRIBE: Pyraustini
 TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Munroe (1976)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: This species exhibits markings that are similar to several other closely related species. The forewing is yellowish buff with darker brown to reddish-brown markings. The antemedial and postmedial lines are distinct and there is a small orbicular dot and reniform bar. The postmedial line is smoothly bowed outward from the costa, then projects obliquely to the inner margin. An even, dark, diffuse band is present along the termen. The hindwing is paler and has a relatively straight postmedial line that is incomplete. A dark, diffuse band is also present along the termen that is similar to the one on the forewing.

In their general coverage of taxa in all of North America, Capps (1967) and Munroe (1976) noted that this species resembles several other closely related species that occur in North America, and that they can only be reliably identified by examination of the genitalia. In North Carolina, this species can be separated from our *Hahncappsia* species by the absence of a diffuse subterminal line on the forewing and hindwing. If the specimens are in good condition, the coloration along the outer margin of the forewing and hindwing is also helpful in separating *N. neohelvalis* from *Helviotys helvalis*; in the former, it is concolorous with the markings of the wings and in the latter, concolorous with the ground color of the wings. *Neohelviotys neohelvalis* is very similar to *N. polingi*, but the latter is only known from two counties in the Sandhills.

DISTRIBUTION: The range in the U.S. extends from Maryland southward to southern Florida, and westward to southern Arizona, Texas, eastern Oklahoma, western Tennessee, Missouri, western Kentucky and southern Illinois. Specimens have also been taken in the West Indies and Panama (Capps, 1967). As of 2023, all of our records are from the Coastal Plain and eastern Piedmont.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been observed from May through September in different areas of the range in the U.S. As of 2023, our records range from early May through early September, with one late season record from early November.

HABITAT: We have records from sandy, xeric communities in the Sandhills and coastal communities, as well as residential neighborhoods in the Piedmont.

FOOD: The host plants are undocumented.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S2-S4]

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

COMMENTS: This species appears to be uncommon in the state, but more information is needed on its distribution, abundance, habitat requirements and feeding ecology before we can accurately assess its conservation status.