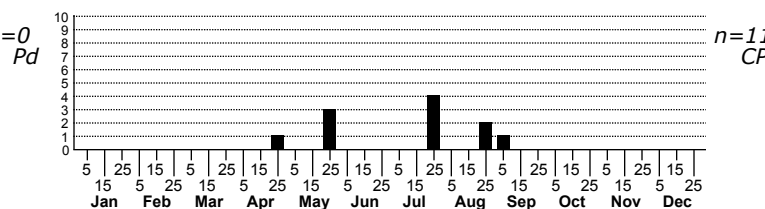
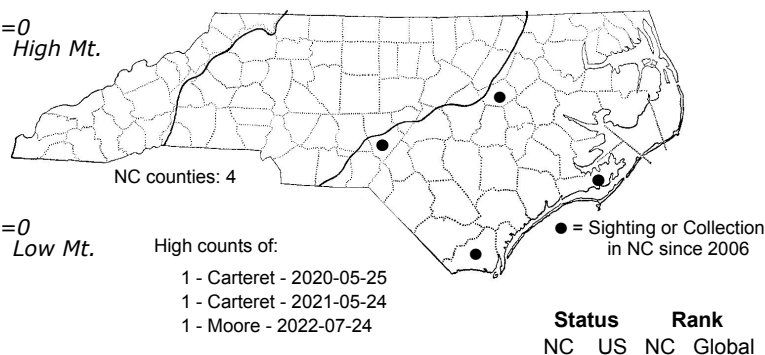


Helvibotys helvialis None



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Pyraustinae TRIBE: Pyraustini
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Capps (1967); Munroe (1976)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Allyson (1981)

ID COMMENTS: The following description is mostly based on that of Capps (1967). The forewing is pale yellow and somewhat shiny, while the reniform spot, discal dot, the two transverse lines, and the area along the costa are all darker and vary from yellowish-brown to reddish-brown. The antemedial line is gently curved outward, while the postmedial line is gently bowed outward on the costal half of the wing, then curves back so that it is nearly perpendicular to the inner margin. The subterminal line is absent on this species. The ground color of the hindwing is similar to that of forewing but paler from the cell to the costa. The postmedial line is weakly curved and restricted to the middle of the wing, and the subterminal line is absent. The fringe of both the forewing and hindwing is concolorous with ground color of the wings.

This species is very similar to our *Neohelvibotys* species and usually requires dissection for identification. If a specimen is in good condition, the coloration along the outer margin of the forewing and hindwing is helpful in separating *N. neohelvialis* from *Helvibotys helvialis*. In the former, it is concolorous with the markings of the wings and in the latter, concolorous with the ground color of the wings (Capps, 1967).

DISTRIBUTION: *Helvibotys helvialis* is found throughout much of the eastern U.S. and adjoining areas of southern Canada (Ontario; Quebec). In the U.S. the range extends from Maine southward to southern Florida and westward to central Texas, central Oklahoma, eastern Nebraska and Illinois. As of 2023, we have only three site records and all are from the Coastal Plain.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults fly from March to October in different areas of the range (Capps, 1967). As of 2023, our very sparse records are from late-May and late-July.

HABITAT: Our records are all from xeric communities in the Coastal Plain.

FOOD: The host plants are rather poorly documented but include *Amaranthus*, beets (*Beta vulgaris*), cotton (*Gossypium*) and a goldenrod (*Solidago*) (Capps, 1967; Covell, 1984; Heppner, 2007; Robinson et al., 2010).

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR SU

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

COMMENTS: We currently do not have sufficient information on the abundance, distribution, and habitat requirements of this species to accurately assess its conservation status within the state.