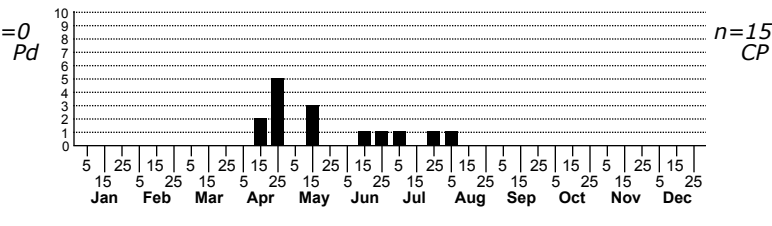
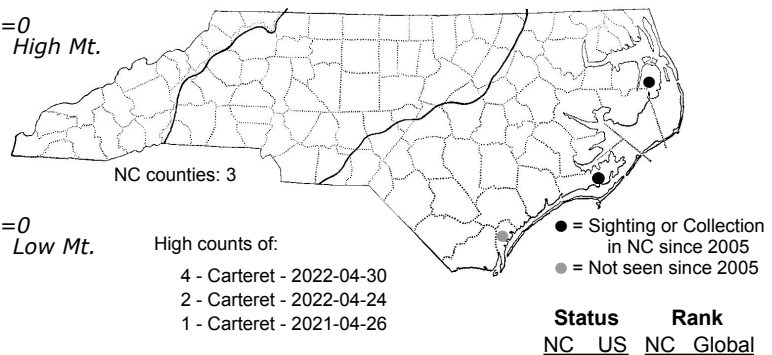


*Helvibotys pucilla* None



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Pyraustinae TRIBE:  
 TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:  
 ONLINE PHOTOS:  
 TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:  
 TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: This species is strikingly sexually dimorphic, with the males uniformly yellow and the females boldly marked with large black marks on a yellow or orange ground. In the males, the forewing is uniformly orange yellow above, with the costa narrowly margined with black on the underside of the wing. The head, body and legs are orangish-yellow, while the third segment of labial palp is contrastingly black. All of the tarsi are blackish fuscous. In the females, the head, thorax and forewing ground vary from orange to yellowish-orange. The forewing has a bold and broadly oval black patch at the base, and a broad black band that covers the apical third of the wing. The fringe is concolorous with the forewing ground. The abdomen is also concolorous with the forewing ground except for a conspicuous black tip. The hindwing is generally similar to the forewing, but lacks the basal patch.

DISTRIBUTION: This species occurs from Costa Rica northward to Mexico and the United States. In the U.S., *Helvibotys pucilla* is found in eastern Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri and western Kentucky. Disjunct populations also occur in coastal habitats in North Carolina. As of 2024, almost all of our records are from Fort Macon State Park in Carteret County, with two additional records from other counties.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults in the primary range of this species typically fly from June through September, with one early season record in March. As of 2024, our records extend from mid-April through early-August.

HABITAT: The habitat preferences are poorly documented. Our records include maritime forests.

FOOD: The larval host plants are apparently unknown (Munroe, 1976).

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR SNR [S1S2]

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: