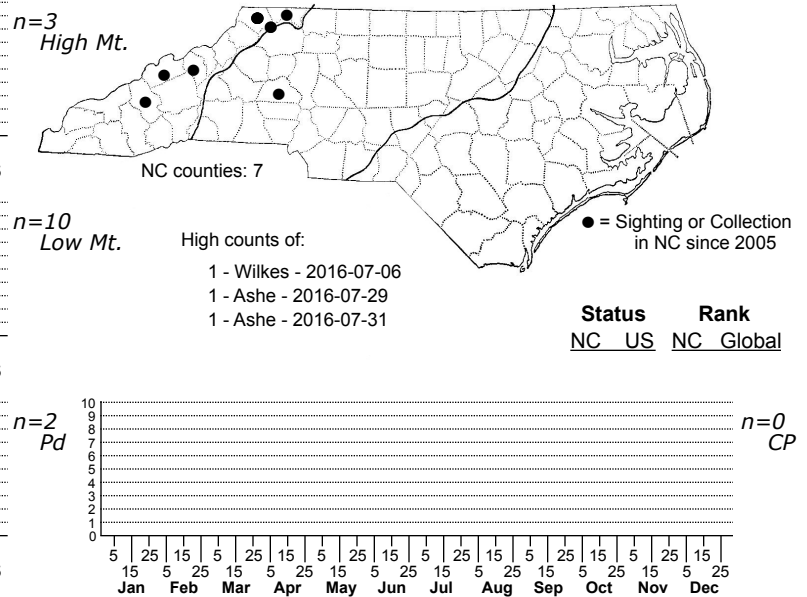
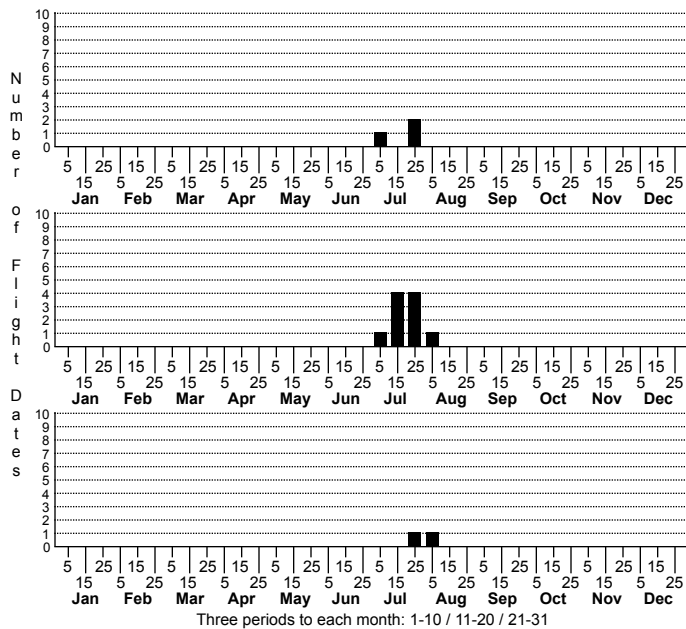


Sitochroa palealis Carrot Seed Moth



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Pyraustinae TRIBE: Pyraustini
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Munroe (1976)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Passoa et al. (2008); Ogden (2017)

ID COMMENTS: *Sitochroa palealis* is a fairly distinctive pyraustine moth that has a pale yellow forewing with a faint greenish tint, along with a diffuse dusky median spot. Fresh specimens often have dark dusting along the veins on the apical half of the wing. The hindwing is white and unmarked, while the head and thorax are concolorous with the forewing.

DISTRIBUTION: *Sitochroa palealis* occurs from eastern Russia westward to Great Britain and Portugal, and southward to Greece, Italy and North Africa. It also occurs in Korea, Japan, and China. It was first reported in 2008 in North America (Passoa et al., 2008). The current range extends across much of southern Canada from Newfoundland westward to Ontario, and in the U.S. from Maine southwestward to eastern Tennessee and western North Carolina, and westward to Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska and Minnesota. As of 2023, all of our records are from the Blue Ridge and western Piedmont, with the earliest record from 2016.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults in North America mostly fly from May through October, with peak activity in July and August. Local populations in North Carolina are univoltine; as of 2023, our records range from early July through early August.

HABITAT: Local populations are typically found in meadows, fields, roadsides, and other open habitats that support Queen-Anne's-Lace.

FOOD: The larvae specialize on members of the carrot family (Apiaceae), with Queen-Anne's-Lace (*Daucus carota*) being the primary host in North America. Other host genera that are used in Europe and elsewhere include *Foeniculum*, *Heracleum*, *Laserpitium*, *Peucedanum*, *Seseli*, and *Silaum* (Passoa et al., 2008; Ogden, 2017).

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights and the larvae are often found in the heads of Queen-Anne's-Lace during the summer and early fall months.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: [GNA] SNR [SNA]

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

COMMENTS: This is an introduced species that does not merit any priority for conservation.