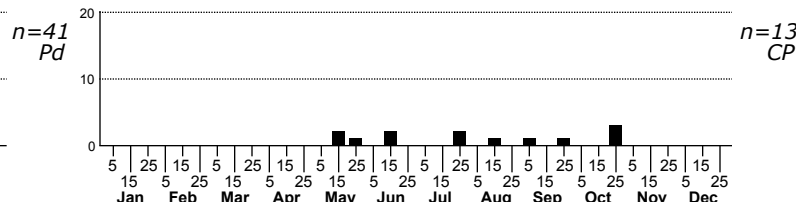
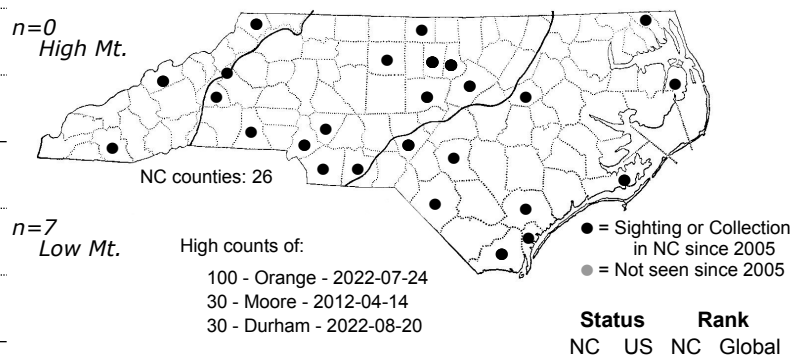
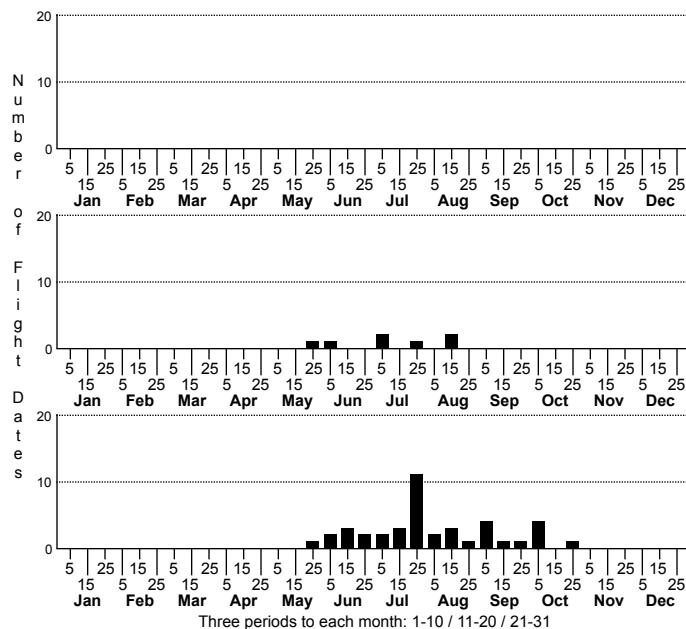


# *Uresiphita reversalis* Genista Broom Moth



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

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Munroe (1976)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Alleyson (1981)

ID COMMENTS: In this species, the head, thorax and ground of the forewing are concolorous and vary from tannish-brown to dark reddish-brown. The antemedial line, postmedial line, orbicular and reniform spots are dark brown to reddish-brown and sometimes obscure on dark individuals. The postmedial line is bowed outward on the costal half of the wing and usually broken into a series of dots. The hindwing is yellow except for a zone of fuscous scales at the apex. The abdomen is also yellow and contrasts sharply with the brownish thorax and head.

DISTRIBUTION: *Uresiphita reversalis* is widely distributed across much of the U.S.; it also occurs in Ontario and Mexico. In the U.S., it has been observed in every state in the conterminous U.S. except Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska. This species occurs statewide in North Carolina wherever the host plants are present locally.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults fly year-round in Florida, Texas and California, and mostly from March through October at more northern locales. Populations in warmer regions can produce four or five generations per year (Bernays and Montllor, 1989). As of 2023, our records extend from mid-May through late October. Populations in North Carolina appear to have two or more overlapping generation per year.

HABITAT: Populations are generally found locally where lupines and wild indigo are present. The habitats include xeric to mesic sites in the Coastal Plain, residential neighborhoods where the hosts are increasingly planted as ornamentals, and open woods and slopes.

FOOD: The larvae feed on legumes, and usually ones that contain toxins such as alkaloids (Alleyson, 1981; Bernays and Montllor, 1989; Heppner, 2007; Robinson et al, 2010). Legumes that are used in eastern North America include False Indigo-bush (*Amorpha fruticosa*), White Wild Indigo (*Baptisia alba*), Tall Blue Wild Indigo (*B. australis*), Yellow Wild Indigo (*B. tinctoria*), Scotch Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), Honey Locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*), and Blue Sandhill Lupine (*Lupinus diffusus*). In the western United States broom (*Genista* spp.) and Necklace Pod (*Sophora tomentosa*) are commonly used. Heppner (2007) listed Common Saltwort (*Salsola kali*) and Forbes (1923) reported honeysuckle (*Lonicera* sp.) as hosts, but these need to be verified with additional observations. The known hosts in North Carolina are all legumes and include *Amorpha fruticosa*, *Baptisia alba*, *B. australis*, *B. tinctoria*, and *Lupinus diffusus*. Larvae are frequently recorded by the public defoliating *Amorpha*, *Baptisia*, and other ornamentals planted in their yards, and are considered by some to be a pest.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights and the boldly marked larvae are commonly seen feeding in the open during the day.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S5]

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

COMMENTS: This is a widespread and common species in North Carolina that appears to be secure, especially given its willingness to feed on ornamental plantings in suburban and urban settings.