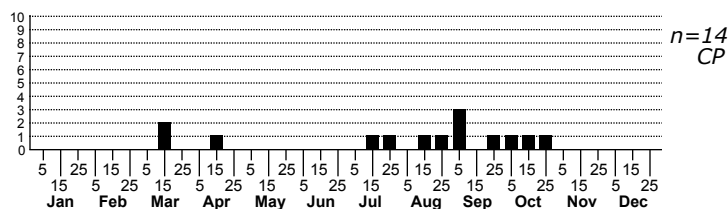
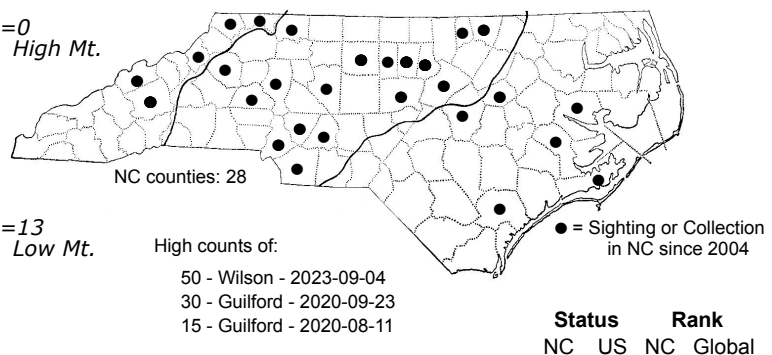
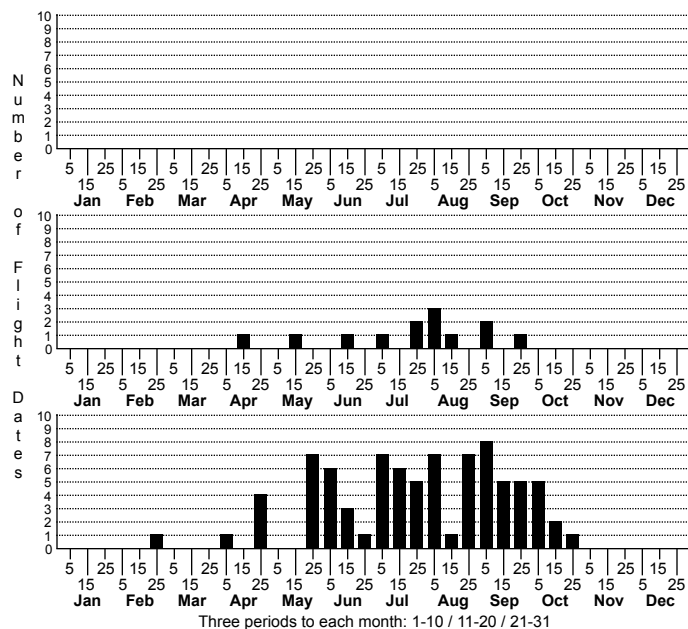


Pyrausta rubricalis Variable Reddish Pyrausta Moth



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Pyraustinae TRIBE: Pyraustini
 TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Munroe (1976)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: In this species the area of the forewing between the dark antemedial and postmedial lines is heavily dusted with blackish to dark reddish-brown scales and contrast with lighter areas that occur on either side. The basal third of the forewing is uniformly dull orange to reddish umber, except along the costa, which is darker. The antemedial line is dentate, and the postmedial line is outwardly bowed on the costal half and dentate. The area immediately distal to the postmedial line varies from dull yellow to yellowish red and is the lightest portion of the wing. It is followed by a dark subterminal band and a dark, thin terminal line. The hindwing has a fuscous ground color with a lighter dull yellow to yellowish-red band at about two-thirds the wing length. The band is shorter than the matching band that adjoins the postmedial line of the forewing, and is divided obliquely by a short segment of the postmedial line. It is followed by a dark subterminal band and a thin dark terminal line. The fringe of both wings tends to be two-toned with the basal portion fuscous and the outer portion dull white.

DISTRIBUTION: *Pyrausta rubricalis* is found in eastern North America, including much of the eastern U.S. and portions of southern Canada (Ontario; Quebec). In the U.S., the range extends from southern Maine and New Hampshire southward to northern Florida, and westward to eastern Texas, eastern Oklahoma, Missouri, Illinois and Wisconsin. Populations are uncommon throughout much of the southeastern Coastal Plain relative to other areas. This species occurs statewide in North Carolina, but is most common in the Piedmont and lower elevations in the mountains.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been observed from February through December in different areas of the range, with the peak flight from May through October. As of 2023, our records extend from late-February through late-October, with local populations probably having two or more overlapping generations per year.

HABITAT: Local populations are commonly found in partially shaded to more open habitats that support mints such as secondary roadways, field edges, powerline corridors and urban gardens. Many of our records are from semi-wooded residential neighborhoods.

FOOD: The larvae feed on members of the mint family. The only recorded hosts are Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*) and a mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum* sp.) that Tracy Feldman found in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights and are occasionally seen nectaring during the day on low vegetation. More information is needed on host use and the larval life history in North Carolina.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR (S4-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 common species that occurs statewide and does well in disturbed landscapes. It appears to be secure within the state.