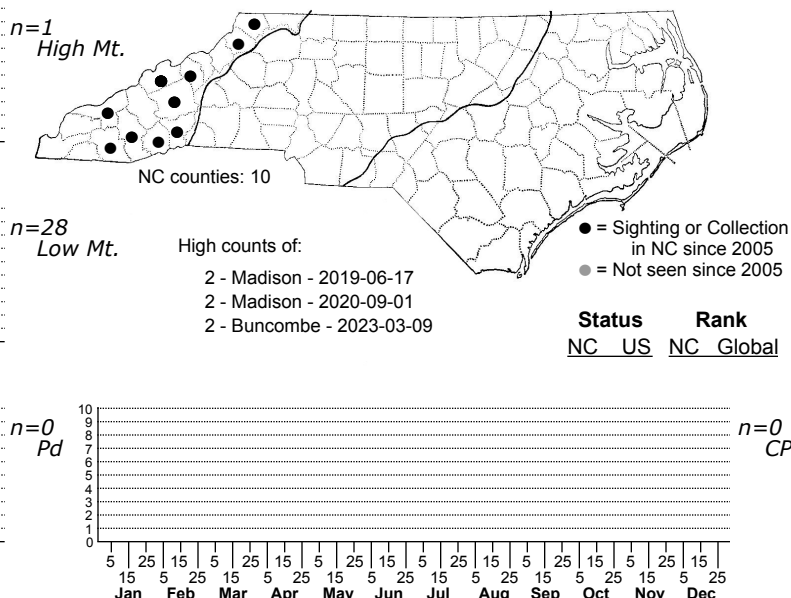
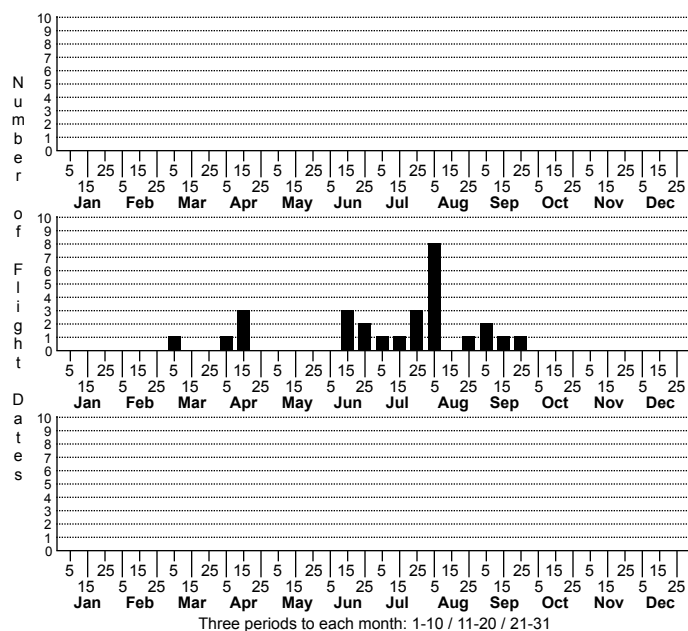


Pyrausta orphialis Orange Mint Moth



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: Allyson (1981)

ID COMMENTS: This is a distinctive species with the forewing consisting of a dark crimson ground color that is overlaid with golden-yellow patches. The most prominent golden-yellow marks include the basal third of the wing, a small spot in the subcostal area near the middle, and a large subapical patch. A few small, diffuse spots are often present between the subapical patch and the inner margin. The antemedial line is missing and the postmedial line cuts through the subapical patch near the costa. The hindwing is brown with a prominent median yellow band. The fringe on both wings is brown.

DISTRIBUTION: *Pyrausta orphialis* is found throughout much of southern Canada from the Yukon Territory and British Columbia eastward to Nova Scotia. In the U.S., the range includes California, Oregon, Washington, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho, as well as the much of the eastern U.S. from Minnesota eastward across the Great Lakes region to Maine, and southward to Kansas, Missouri, Tennessee, Alabama, northern Florida, and North Carolina. As of 2023, all of our records are from the Blue Ridge.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been observed during every month of the year, with a peak in seasonal activity from June through September. As of 2023, our records are from early-March through mid-September, with almost all from mid-June through mid-September.

HABITAT: Local populations are commonly found associated with openings in forested settings such as secondary roadways, wildlife plots, powerline corridors, meadows, and residential neighborhoods and gardens that support the host plants.

FOOD: The larvae feed on members of the Lamiaceae (Munroe, 1976; Godfrey et al., 1987; Scholtens, 1996; Heppner, 2007; Robinson et al., 2010; Beadle and Leckie, 2012). The reported hosts include Yellow Giant-hyssop (*Agastache nepetoides*), Hairy Woodmint (*Blephilia hirsuta*), Peppermint (*Mentha x piperita*), a *Monarda* sp., Wild Bergamot (*M. fistulosa*), Summer Savory (*Satureia hortensis*), and American Germander (*Teucrium canadense*).

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are commonly seen resting on vegetation or nectaring in the open during the day. They occasionally can be seen drinking water from puddles or seeps. The adults are mostly diurnally active, but will come to lights at night.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S3-S4]

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

COMMENTS: This species can be locally common in the Blue Ridge.