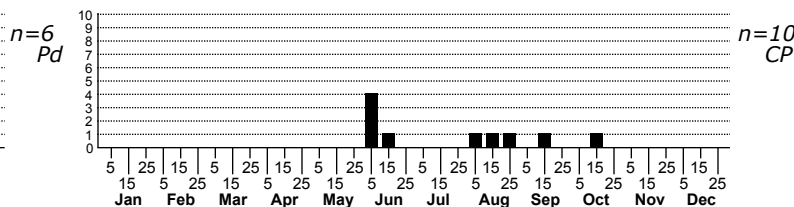
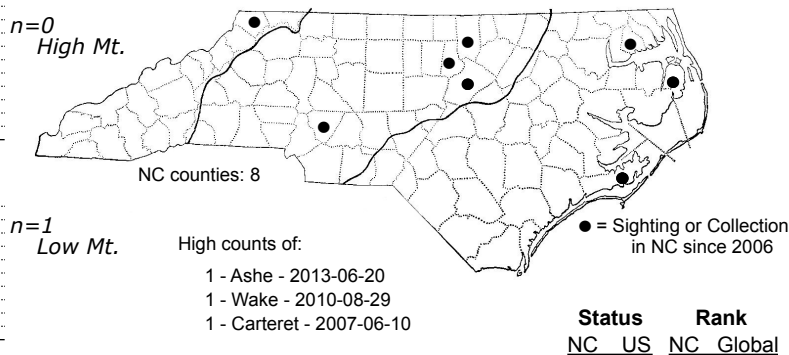
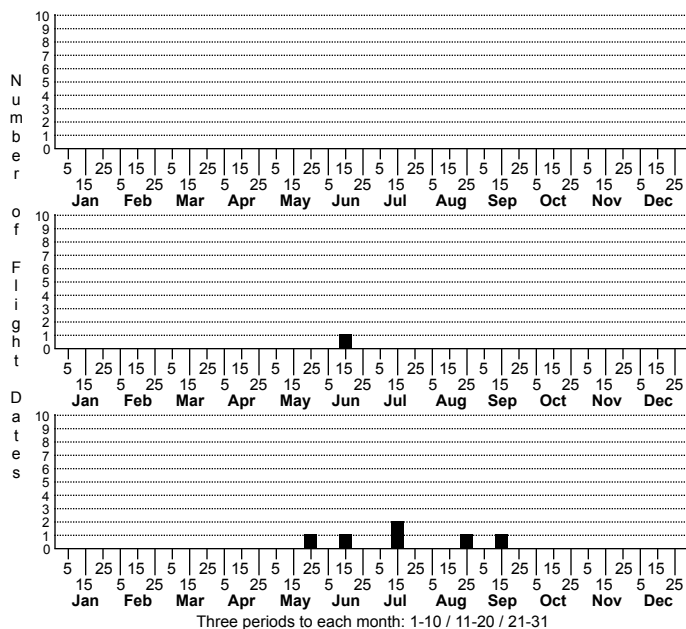


Pyrausta tyralis Coffee-loving Pyrausta



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Pyraustinae TRIBE: Pyraustini
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Munroe (1976)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Allyson (1981)

ID COMMENTS: This is a boldly marked and easily recognized species. The forewing is wine-red with two broad, yellow, transverse bands and a yellow cell spot. The antemedial line is represented as an oblong band and the postmedial as a sinuous band that narrows in the middle. The hindwing varies from red or orangish red and is slightly paler than the forewing. The subterminal region is slightly darker and there is a narrow, incomplete postmedial yellow line (Munroe, 1976). One form (variety *erosnealis*) has the bands reduced and suffused with red.

DISTRIBUTION: *Pyrausta tyralis* has a large range that extends from southern New York to southern Florida, and westward to western Texas, Arizona, Oklahoma, eastern Kansas, eastern Nebraska and Iowa. This species also occurs south through Mexico and the West Indies as far as Venezuela (Munroe, 1976). This species is uncommon in North Carolina, but has been found in all three physiographic provinces.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults fly year-round in southern states such as Florida and Texas, and mostly from April through September farther north. As of 2023, our records extend from late-May through mid-September.

HABITAT: Local populations in North Carolina have been found in habitats that range from xeric to mesic. Most are in open or partly shaded sites, including wooded residential settings.

FOOD: The larval hosts are poorly documented, but include species from at least two plant families (Munroe, 1976; Allyson, 1981; Robinson et al., 2010; BugGuide). The reported host include Spanish Needles (*Bidens alba*), Bearded Beggarticks (*B. aristosa*), a *Dahlia* sp., and Wild Coffee (*Psychotria nervosa*).

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are active during the day and can be seen resting on vegetation or nectaring on low-growing wildflowers. They are less attracted to lights than many of our other moths, but do appear occasionally at lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S2-S4]

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

COMMENTS: This species is uncommon throughout the state. We need additional information on its host plants, preferred habitats and abundance before we can accurately assess its conservation status.