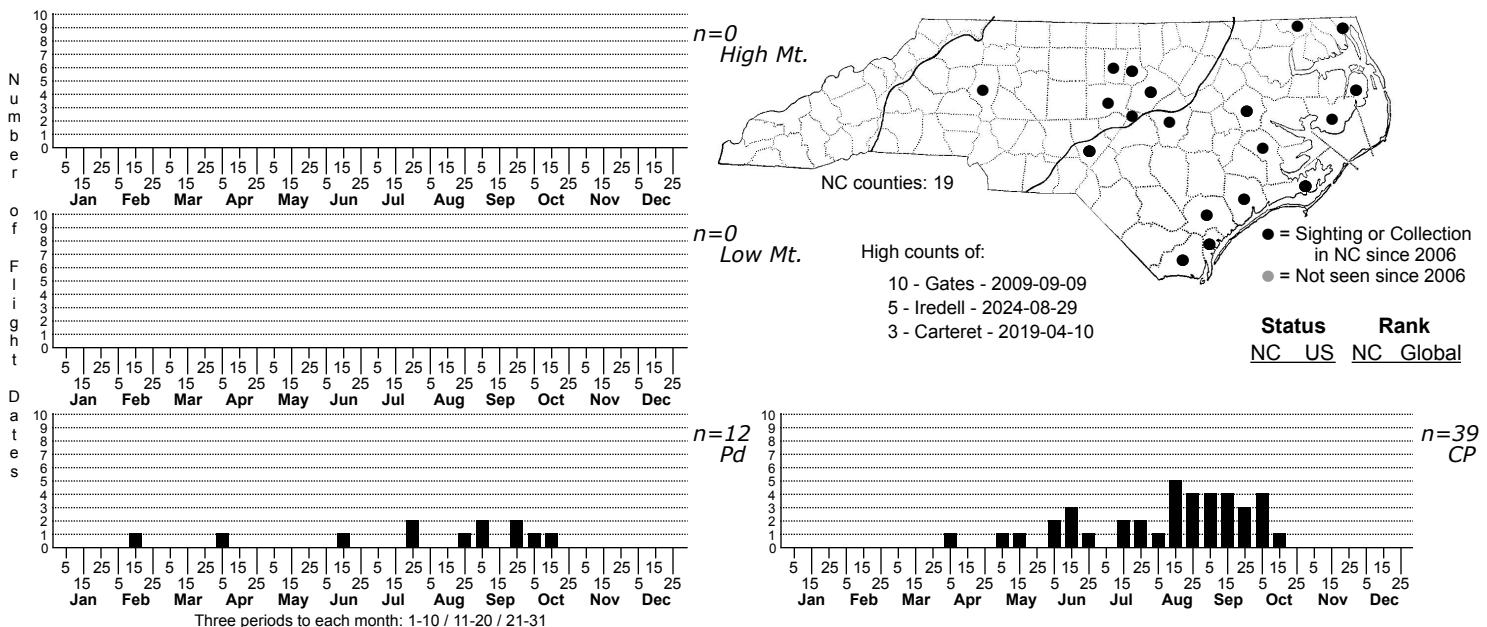


# *Pyrausta laticlavia* Southern Purple Mint Moth



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Pyraustinae TRIBE: Pyraustini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Munroe (1976)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: This is a distinctly marked species with contrasting pink and yellow regions on the forewing. The ground color of the forewing varies from bright pink to reddish-pink and is overlain with three yellow marks. These include a triangular patch that covers all of the basal third of the wing except for the costa, a prominent postmedial band at around four-fifths the wing length, and a subcostal spot between the two. The hindwing is variable and can be either pinkish fuscous or fuscous with a yellow postmedial fascia, or yellow with a pinkish or fuscous terminal band (Munroe, 1976). The variety *< i>cinerosa* is uncommon and deviates from the typical pattern above by having the yellow and pink areas masked by heavy brown dusting.

DISTRIBUTION: *Pyrausta laticlavia* is widely distributed over the U.S., including California, Arizona, New Mexico and Colorado in the West. In the eastern U.S. it occurs from Maine and New York southward to southern Florida, and westward to Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, Illinois and Michigan. As of 2023, all of our records are from the Coastal Plain and eastern Piedmont.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults fly year-round in southern localities like Florida, Texas and California, and mostly from April through October farther north. As of 2023, our records extend from mid-February through mid-October.

HABITAT: Local populations are typically found in open habitats that support members of the mint family. On the coast they are associated with sandy, open habitats.

FOOD: The native host plants are poorly documented but are thought to be members of the mint family. There is one rearing record for Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*) from California where *P. laticlavia* has been introduced. In North Carolina, Bo Sullivan reared two adults from larvae in Carteret Co. that were feeding on Spotted Beebalm (*Monarda punctata*).

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are diurnally active and are often seen either resting in the open on vegetation or nectaring on low-growing plants. They are also attracted to lights.

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: More information is needed on host plants, preferred habitats and abundance before we can accurately assess the conservation status of this species in North Carolina.