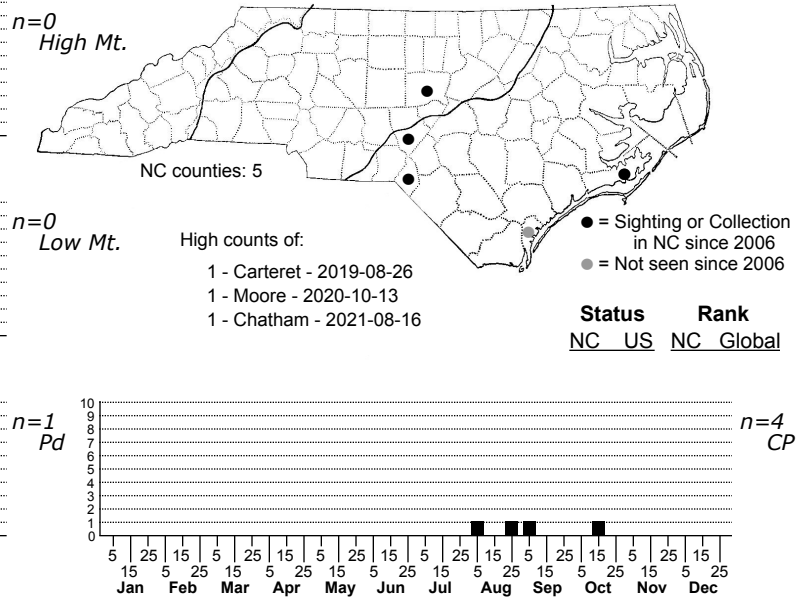


## Salvinia Stem-borer Moth



FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

ID COMMENTS: This species is very similar to *S. castellalis*, with the ground color of the forewing being overlain with an array of nearly translucent, whitish patches. The patches are roughly arrayed in three bands, with the whitish patches either thinly margined basally and apically with black, or divided by a black line. The basal band has three or four very small whitish patches, while the median band has a squarish white patch below the costa that is followed by two or three additional patches inwardly. The subterminal band consists of a cluster of small white patches. The costa has four blackish spots in the subapical area, while the hindwing is white with a row of evenly spaced blackish spots at the base. There is often a matching group of blackish spots along the termen. The hindwing has a large translucent area on the basal two-thirds, while the apical third of the wing is brown to reddish-brown. Wavy antemedial and postmedial lines are present within the basal two-third of the wing.

**DISTRIBUTION:** *Samea multiplicalis* was originally described from Brazil and is widely distributed throughout warmer regions of North and South America. In the U.S., this species is primarily found in the southeastern Coastal Plain from North Carolina southward to southern Florida, and westward to eastern and central Texas. Isolated records are also known from areas farther north, including Oklahoma, northern Virginia, Rhode Island, Ohio, New York and Ontario. As of 2023, we have only four site records for this species, with three in the Coastal Plain and one in the Piedmont.

**HABITAT:** Local populations are generally centered around sluggish aquatic habitats such as swamps, permanent ponds, lakes, marshes and canals that support aquatic vegetation.

FOOD: The larvae are moderately polyphagous and feed on aquatic plants (Knopf and Habeck, 1976; Center et al., 2002; Heppner, 2007; Robinson et al., 2010; Tewari and Johnson, 2011; Beadle and Leckie, 2018). The reported hosts include Carolina Mosquito-fern (<i>Azolla caroliniana</i>), Feathered Mosquito-fern (<i>A. pinnata</i>), Water Lettuce (<i>Pistia stratiotes</i>), Pickerelweed (<i>Pontederia cordata</i>), Water Spangles (<i>Salvinia minima</i>), Giant Salvinia (<i>S. molesta</i>), and the duckweed (<i>Spirodela</i> sp.). Knopf and Habeck (1976) noted that the moths on rare occasion will also use Common Water-hyacinth (<i>Oshuna crassipes</i>).

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S2S4]

COMMENTS: This species reaches the northern limit of its main range in North Carolina and is uncommon within the state. We need additional information on host use, distribution and abundance before we can accurately assess its conservation status.