



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Spilomelinae TRIBE:
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Hayden and Troubridge (2015)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Hayden and Troubridge (2015)

ID COMMENTS: In this species, the labial palps are upturned and uniformly colored, while the forewing is brown with grayish-brown lines that are sharply defined and fairly smooth (Hayden and Troubridge, 2015). The postmedial line has two broadly excurved humps. The discal spot is circular and hollow, and opposes a median line that extends inward from the inner margin. The hindwing coloration and lines are very similar to those on the forewing.

DISTRIBUTION: *Nacoleia charesalis* is native to southeastern Asia and northern Australia. It was first found in North America in 2012 and has been spreading northward and westward since then, mostly along coastal habitats along the Atlantic and Gulf Coast. It currently occurs from North Carolina southward to Florida and westward to Louisiana and southeastern Texas. As of 2023, we have three state records, including one from a lower-elevation site in the Blue Ridge.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been found during every month of the year in Florida, and mostly from April through August elsewhere. As of 2023, we have records from early-June through early-November.

HABITAT: Our very limited records are from residential neighborhoods.

FOOD: In their native range, the larvae are cryptic general feeders on decaying vegetation; sometimes boring into plants, including sweet potato and turmeric (Hayden and Troubridge, 2015).

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights, and also appear to be strongly attracted to fermenting fruit and baits (Hayden and Troubridge, 2015)

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNA SNA

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: This species is native to tropical Southeast Asia. It is currently too soon to tell if this species will establish breeding populations in North Carolina or will simply remain a stray coming up from Florida, where it has apparently become established.