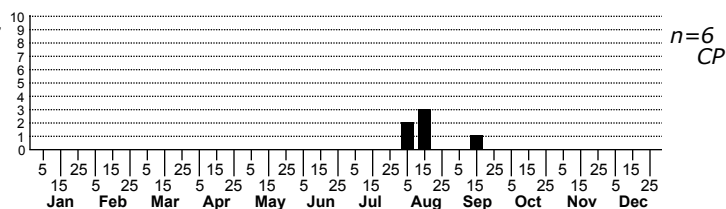
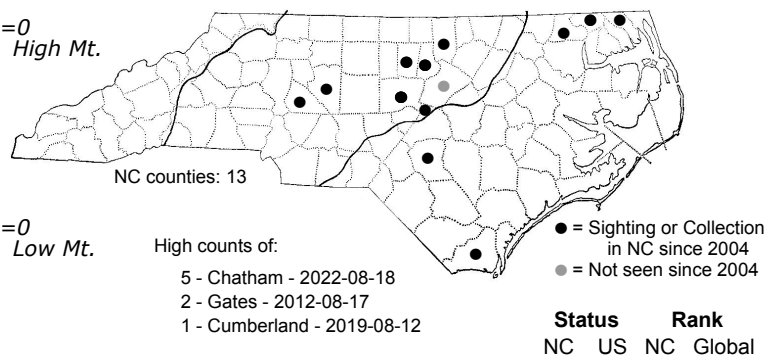
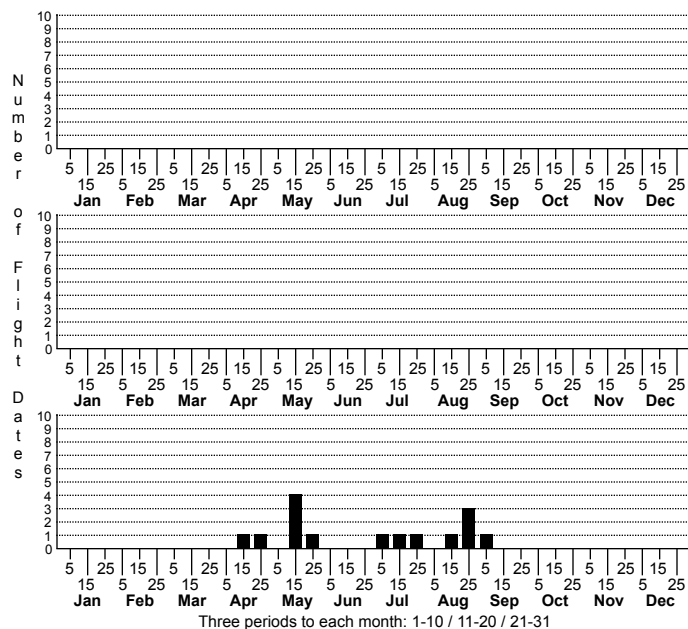


## *Colomychus talis* Distinguished Colymychus Moth



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Pyraustinae TRIBE: Spilomelini  
TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: This is a very distinctive species that has a maroon ground color on the wings that is overlain with bold, irregular, dull-yellowish blotches that are narrowly margined with dark brown. The forewing has a small yellowish orbital spot, a large median blotch that extends from the inner margin, and a similar large postmedial blotch that extends from the costa inward. The hindwing has a small orbital spot and a single large median blotch that extends across the entire wing. Individuals normally rest with the forewings spread so that the blotch on the hindwing joins the median blotch on the forewing. Both wings have a thin black terminal line that adjoins a pale fringe.

The Pickleworm Moth (*Diaphania nitidalis*) is similar, but has a single large yellowish blotch on the forewing.

DISTRIBUTION: *Colomychus talis* occurs in Central America and in the U.S. from Maryland southward to southern Florida, and westward to eastern Texas, eastern Oklahoma, Arkansas, western Tennessee, southern Illinois and southern Indiana. It is absent from the southern Appalachian region and Cumberland Plateau. As of 2023, all of our records are from the Coastal Plain and eastern Piedmont.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been found from March through November in different areas of the range. As of 2023, our records range from mid-April through mid-September. Local populations in North Carolina appear to produce either one or two generations per year.

HABITAT: We have several records from semi-wooded residential neighborhoods, as well as wet and mesic woods and woodland edges.

FOOD: The only documented host is Climbing Dogbane (*Thyrsanthella difformis*), which is a member of the Apocynaceae (George Smiley; BugGuide).

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S2S4]

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

COMMENTS: We need additional information on host use and preferred habitats before we can accurately assess the conservation status of this species within the state.