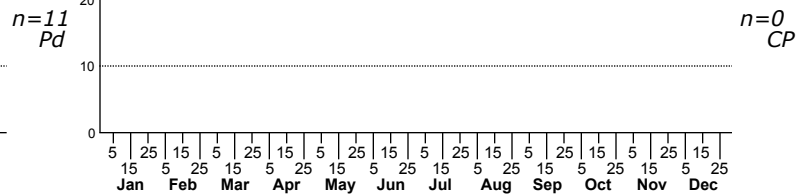
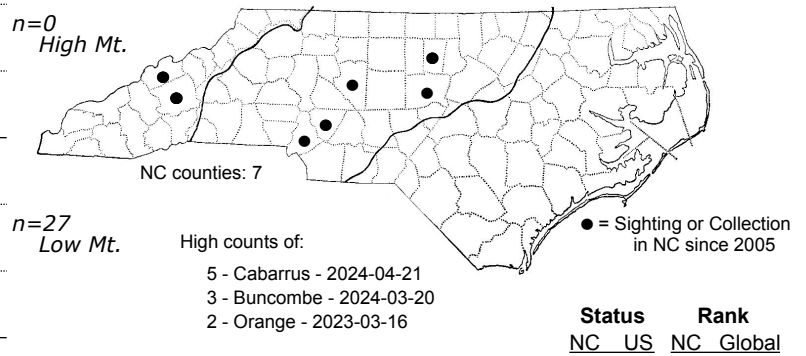
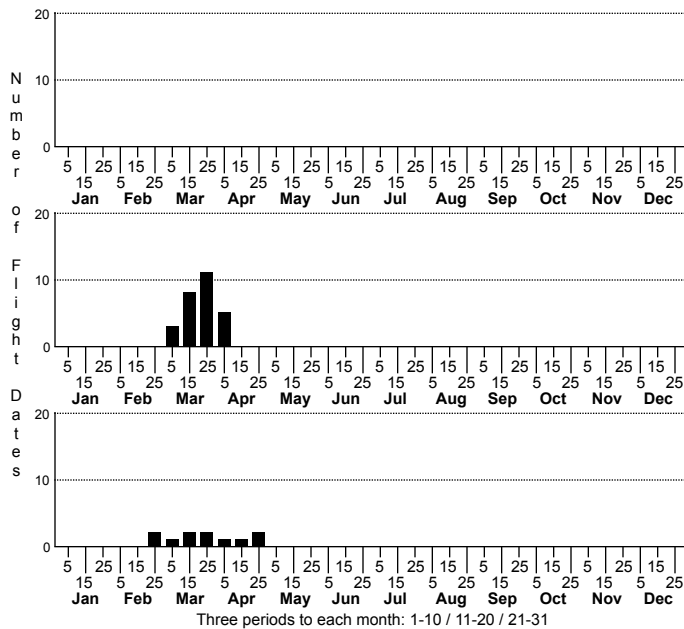


Palpita aenescentalis None



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Pyraustinae TRIBE: Spilomelini
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Munroe (1952)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The following description is mostly based on that of Munroe (1952). The labial palp is brown above and pale below, and about twice the length of the eye. The frons, vertex, thorax and abdomen are all brown, with white striping on the abdominal segments obsolete relative to our other *Palpita* species. The forewing is relatively long and narrow, and has an acute apex. The ground color is gray to dull white and is overlain with a broad streak of diffuse brown shading that extends down the middle of the wing from around one-third the wing length to the reniform spot, then curves around the spot and projects towards the apex. The dark brown reniform and orbicular spots are relatively large and often have a lighter, fuscous center. The costa is shaded with brown or fuscous, and the wing has fine black speckling throughout. The fringe is brown, with a darker, dashed, sub-basal line that parallels a dashed blackish terminal line. Most specimens have forewings that exhibit pronounced brassy reflections. The hindwing is translucent grayish white, with a faint discocellular line, and a variable amount of black speckling. The marginal line is black, and the fringe gray with a brown sub-basal line.

In addition to its maculation, this species is rather distinctive due to its long and narrow forewing that has an acute apex. The brassy reflections are also distinctive. The adults most commonly rest with the forewings covering the hindwings, which is generally not the case for our other *Palpita* species.

DISTRIBUTION: *Palpita aenescentalis* is found in southern Canada (Manitoba; Ontario; Quebec; New Brunswick) and the eastern U.S. from Maine westward to Minnesota and northeastern North Dakota, and southward to eastern Oklahoma, Missouri, western Tennessee, Alabama, northern Georgia, central South Carolina, and North Carolina. Populations appear to be largely absent from the southeastern Coastal Plain. As of 2023, all of our records are from the Piedmont and lower elevations in the Blue Ridge.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults mostly fly from March through August in different areas of the range, with a few records from the winter months in the southernmost areas of the range. As of 2023, our records range from late-February through early April.

HABITAT: This species is commonly found in rich, mesic hardwood forests.

FOOD: The host plants are undocumented, but may be ashes given these were the only members of the Oleaceae that were present at several of our collecting sites.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to both building lights and UV-lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S2-S3]

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 in North Carolina. More information is needed on its host plants and distribution and abundance before we can accurately assess its conservation status.