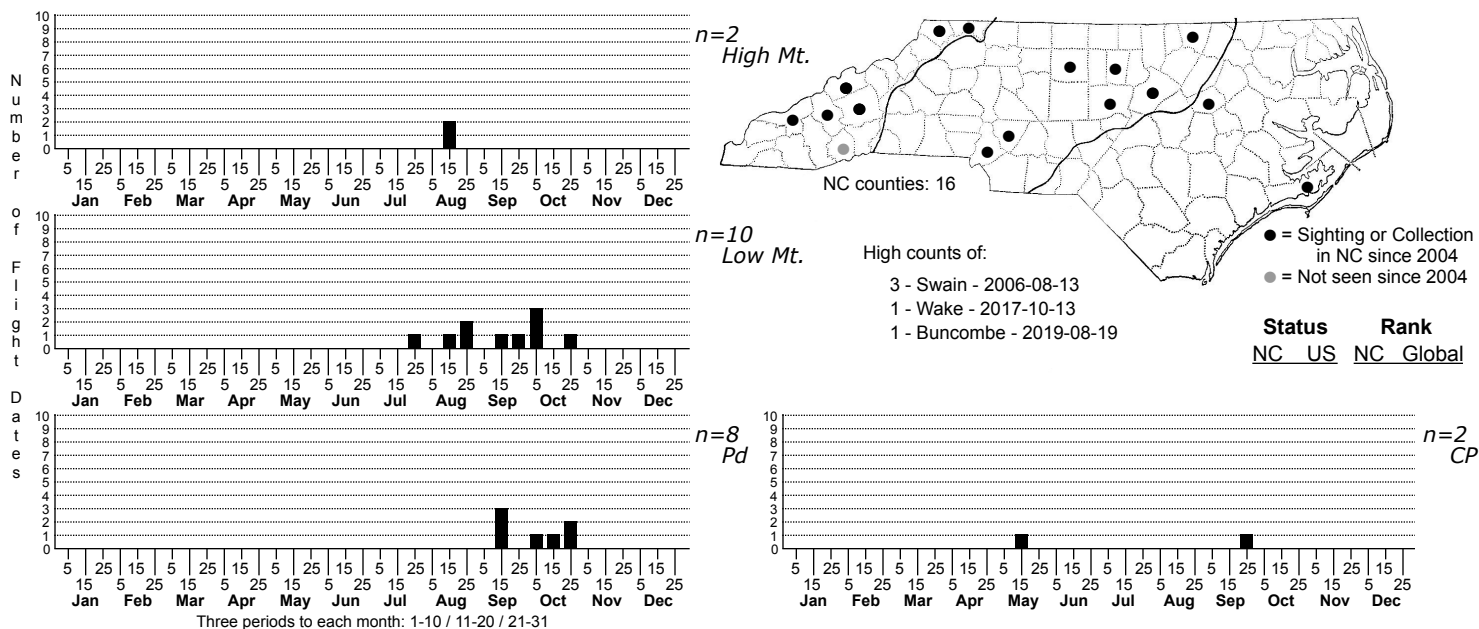


Pilocrocis ramentalis Scraped Pilocrocis Moth



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Pyraustinae TRIBE: Spilomelini
 TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984); Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Cantillano (2019)

ID COMMENTS: In this species, the head, palps, thorax, abdomen and ground color of all wings are concolorous and vary from grayish-brown or purplish-brown to light clay-colored. The abdomen has a narrow white line on the posterior margin of each segment, and the marks on the forewing include an orbicular spot that is represented as a black dot, and a whitish reniform spot that is shaped like an arc. The antemedial line is weakly sinuate and strikes the costa just anterior to the orbicular spot. The postmedial line projects inward from the costa at around three-fourths the wing length where it meets an outwardly bulged section near the middle. From there the line projects basally towards the reniform spot, where it loops back and runs perpendicular to the inner margin. All of the marks except the orbicular are margined on one side with a diffuse, thin, dark brown or blackish shade. The dark shading is on the basal side of the postmedial line and reniform arc, and on the outer side on the antemedial line. The hindwing has a single discal spot and a postmedial line that is similar to that of the forewing. Both have dark shading on the basal side. The fringe of both the forewing and hindwing is white, with a dark brown basal line that is often interrupted and checkered. It parallels a thin, diffuse, dark brown marginal line that is more prominent on the hindwing. The veins on the apical half of all of the wings are accentuated with darker scaling.

DISTRIBUTION: *Pilocrocis ramentalis* is found in Central America, the West Indies, and eastern North America, including southern Canada (Ontario; Quebec). It occurs in the U.S. from Massachusetts southward to southern Florida, and westward to Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri and Illinois. This species is found in all three physiographic provinces in North Carolina, but is rarely observed in the Coastal Plain.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults fly year-round in Florida and mostly from May through November farther north. As of 2023, our records extend from mid-May through late-October, with a seasonal peak from August through October.

HABITAT: Our records generally come from wet to mesic forests, but we have at least one from a barrier island.

FOOD: The host plants that are used in North America are poorly documented, with False Nettle (*Boehmeria cylindrica*; Urticaceae) being the only known native host (Enriquez, 2005; Heppner, 2007; Solis, 2010; Robinson et al., 2010; Cantillano, 2019). Other reported hosts include several tropical and subtropical species in the Acanthaceae (*Dyschoriste quadrangularis*; *Justicia brenesii*; *J. carthaginensis*; *Odontonema strictum*; *O. tubiforme*; *Pachystachys coccinea*; *P. spicata*; *Ruellia blechum*; *R. inundata*), as well as *Achirantes aspera* in the Amaranthaceae. None of these species occur in North Carolina, but our native species of *Ruellia* might serve as hosts.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR SU

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

COMMENTS: The residential status of this species needs to be confirmed in North Carolina. This species has a wide range in the Neotropics and could be present here primarily as an emigrant.