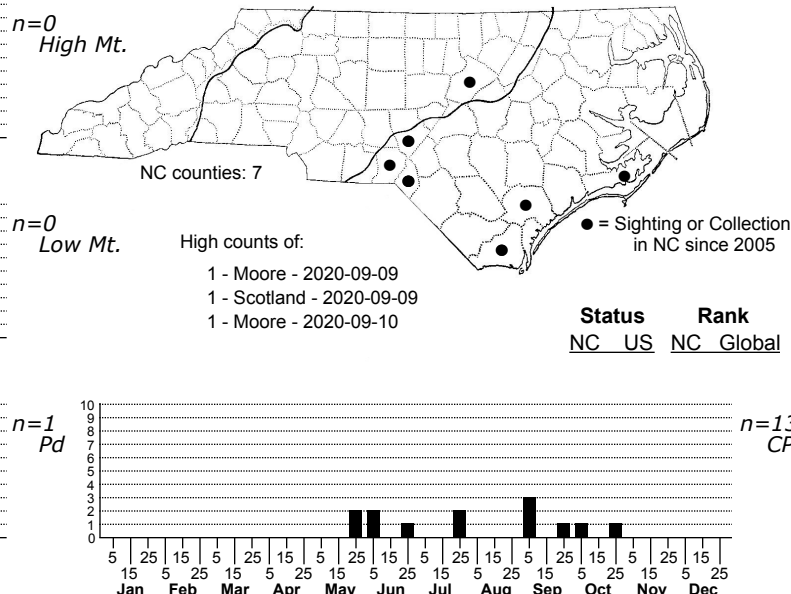
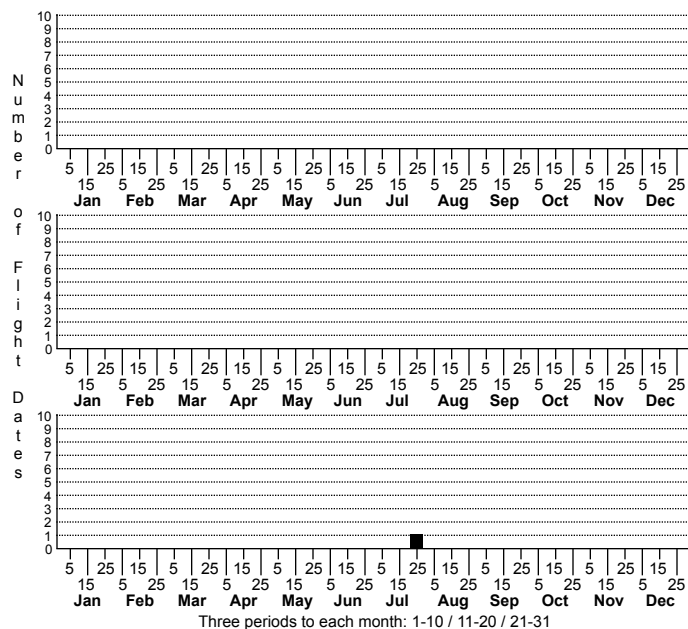


Marasmia cochrusalis Acrobat Moth



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Spilomelinae TRIBE:
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The head and thorax of this species are medium brown. The forewing ground color varies from dull white to pale yellowish-brown and is dusted with darker brown. The heaviest dusting occurs along the costa and subcostal region from the wing base to the postmedial line, and in the subterminal area between the subterminal line and the termen. The orbicular spot is missing or obscure, while the reniform is represented as a short, dark-brown to blackish arc. The antemedial line is outwardly curved, and the postmedial is broken in the middle. It begins on the costa as a black spot at around three-fourths the wing length that projects inward as an outwardly bowed line. At the other end of the postmedial line is a straight portion that projects from near the middle of the inner margin obliquely, and terminates just before reaching the reniform. The connecting piece that is often present in related species between the bowed and straight segments is usually obscure or missing. A subterminal line is present immediately behind the postmedial line on the bowed section, with a whitish, narrow gap between the two. The hindwing is generally similar, with a prominent dark brown antemedial line and a postmedial line that extends from the costa to the middle of the wing. The fringe on both the forewing and hindwing is dull white with a dark basal line that parallels an adjoining dark terminal line to produce a double line.

Marasmia cochrusalis is similar to *M. trapezalis*, with the most obvious difference being that the gap between the postmedial line and subterminal line on the forewing is much wider in the latter. The hindwing postmedial line also tends to align with the forewing subterminal line in *M. cochrusalis* and with the postmedial line in *M. trapezalis*. The latter species has not been documented in North Carolina, but could in the future since there are records from South Carolina and as far north as southern New York.

DISTRIBUTION: This is a wide-ranging species that occurs from Central America and the West Indies northward to eastern North America where it is mostly found in Coastal Plain habitats from southern Texas eastward across the Gulf Coast states to Florida, and northward to New Jersey and Rhode Island. There is also one isolated record from Oklahoma. As of 2023, we have a single record from the eastern Piedmont, with the remainder from the Coastal Plain. It is uncertain if this species is a reproducing resident, or simply a freeze-intolerant species that appears in North Carolina due to long-distance dispersal from Florida or other southern sites.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults fly year-round in Florida and from March through December in other southern states. The flight season is much more abbreviated (June through August) in the northern part of the range. As of 2023, we have records from late-May through late-October.

HABITAT: Nearly all of our records are from open, grassy habitats, with most coming from xeric habitats in the Sandhills.

FOOD: The hosts are poorly documented, but members of this genus appear to specialize on grasses. The larvae of *Marasmia cochrusalis* have been recorded on Corn and Sugarcane (Robinson et al., 2010).

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: [GMR] SNR

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: This is primarily a tropical and Floridian species whose status as a resident in North Carolina still needs to be established.
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