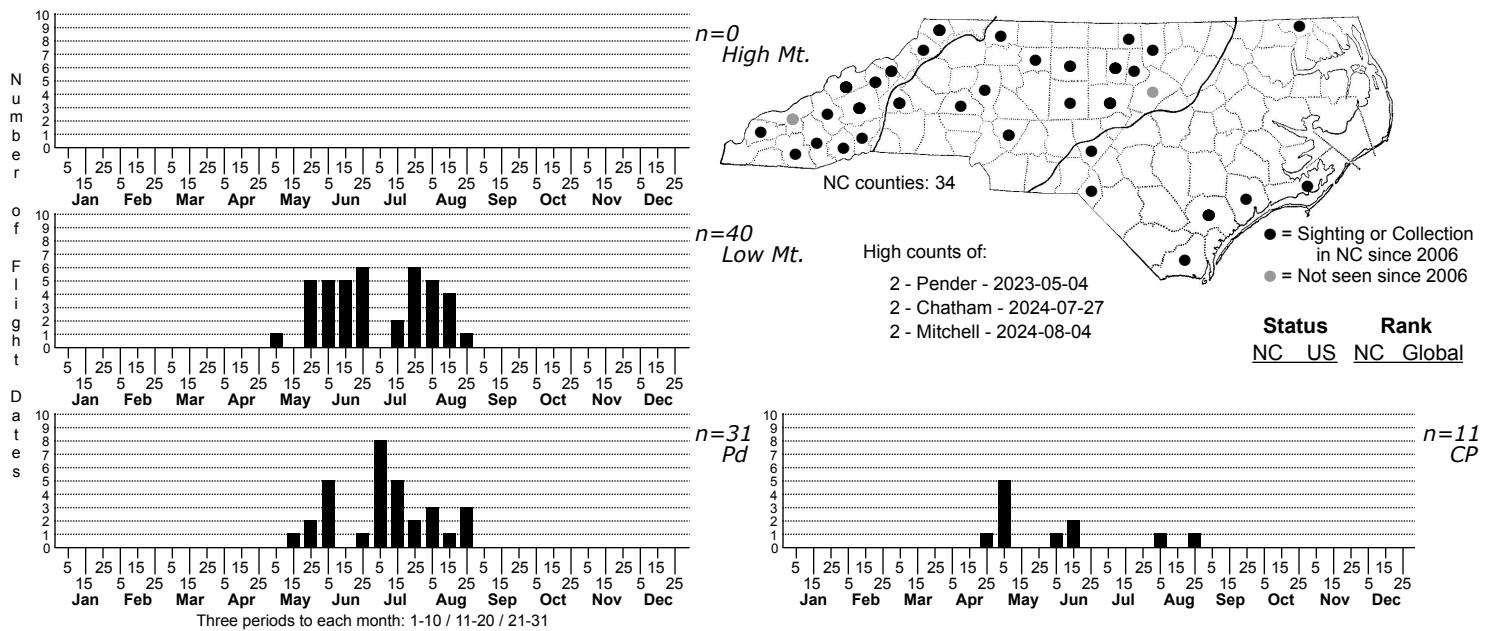


# *Conchylodes ovulalis* Zebra Conchylodes



**FAMILY:** Crambidae    **SUBFAMILY:** Pyraustinae    **TRIBE:** Spilomelini  
**TAXONOMIC COMMENTS:**

**FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:** Covell (1984)

**ONLINE PHOTOS:**

**TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:**

**TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:**

**ID COMMENTS:** This is a very distinctively marked species with all of the wings having a silvery white ground color that is overlain with strongly contrasting dark brown to blackish markings that resemble those of a zebra. These include thick basal and antemedial lines that precede the orbicular spot, and a reniform spot that is white in the middle. The postmedial line takes a meandering course that begins on the costa at around three-fourths the wing length, then runs across most of the wing before looping back to the reniform spot. From there it loops back again to the inner margin. Following this is a complete subterminal line and a relatively narrow terminal line. The hindwing has a series of five dark brown lines that converge towards the anal angle. The fringe of the forewings and hindwings is similar in being white with a light brown basal line that parallels the terminal line. The abdomen is also silvery white, with contrasting bold dark crossbands and a yellowish-orange patch with brown central marks on the terminal segments.

**DISTRIBUTION:** *Conchylodes ovulalis* is found in northwestern South America, Central America, and eastern North America. It has been observed in Ontario, and in the U.S. from Massachusetts southward to central Florida, and westward to central Texas, Oklahoma, central Kansas, southern Illinois and eastern Nebraska. This species occurs statewide in North Carolina, but is relatively uncommon in the Coastal Plain.

**FLIGHT COMMENT:** The adults fly from March through November in different areas of the range. As of 2023, our records extend from early May through late-August. Populations in North Carolina appear to have two generations per year.

**HABITAT:** Our records are mostly from fragmented landscapes with woods, early successional habitats and other disturbed habitats. Many of our records are from semi-wooded residential neighborhoods.

**FOOD:** The hosts are rather poorly documented, with most of the reported hosts being members of the Asteraceae (Robinson et al., 2010; Beadle and Leckie, 2018; BugGuide). The reported hosts include Annual Ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*), Annual Marsh-elder (*Iva annua*) and a sunflower (*Helianthus*). Forbes (1923) stated "probably on sycamore" but that seems unlikely.

**OBSERVATION METHODS:** The adults are attracted to lights.

**NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS:** GNR [S4-S5]

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

**COMMENTS:** This is a fairly common species in the Piedmont and Blue Ridge and appears to be reasonably secure.