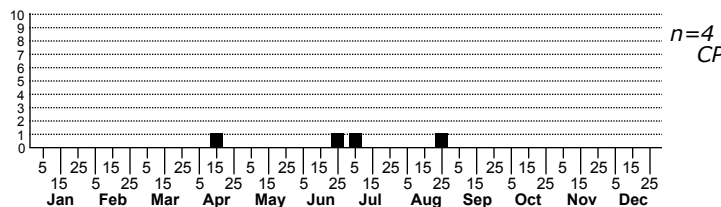
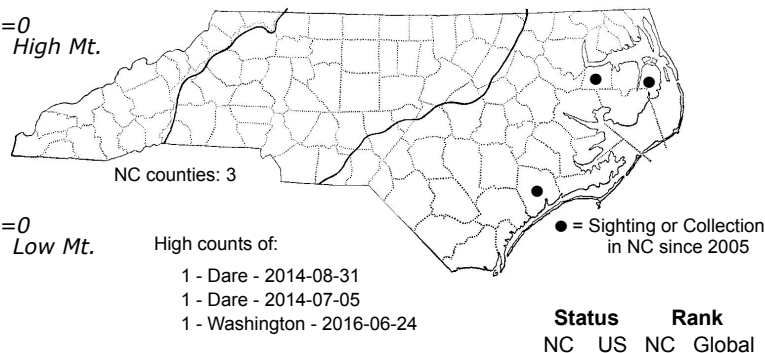


Leptosteges flavifascialis Golden-banded Leptosteges



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Schoenobiinae TRIBE:
 TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Barnes and McDunnough (1913)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: In this species the forewing has a white ground color that is sprinkled with varying levels of golden yellow to golden brown scales. The wing is crossed by three wide, dull, yellowish bands that extend from the costa to the inner margin. The first is at the wing base and is often broken in the middle, the second is just before the middle of the wing and often bends basally and narrows near the costa, and the third is subterminal and broadens towards the inner margin. A large, rounded spot is often present between the median and subterminal bands, and is sometimes fused with the median band. Both the spot and the two bands are usually margined with heavy golden-brown dusting. Beyond the subterminal band there is a zone of white ground color that narrows towards the tornus and has three or four small, yellow, elongated, oval spots embedded in the costal half of the ground. There is a diffuse, brown terminal line next to the fringe, which is white with a dark basal line. The hindwing has a similar ground color that is sprinkled with golden brown scales. The yellow marks with brown margins include a basal band similar to that on the forewing and often broken in the middle, a broad band just beyond the middle, and three small, elongated, oval spots in the subterminal region that resemble those on the forewing. The terminal line and fringe is similar to that on the forewing.

DISTRIBUTION: *Leptosteges flavifascialis* is narrowly distributed in Florida and as a northern disjunct group in eastern North Carolina.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults are active year-round or nearly so in Florida. As of 2023, our limited records (n = 4) are from mid-April through late-August.

HABITAT: Our few records are all from coastal communities, but details about the habitats that are used are lacking.

FOOD: The hosts are undocumented.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S2-S3]

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: This is a seemingly rare species within the state with only four current records.