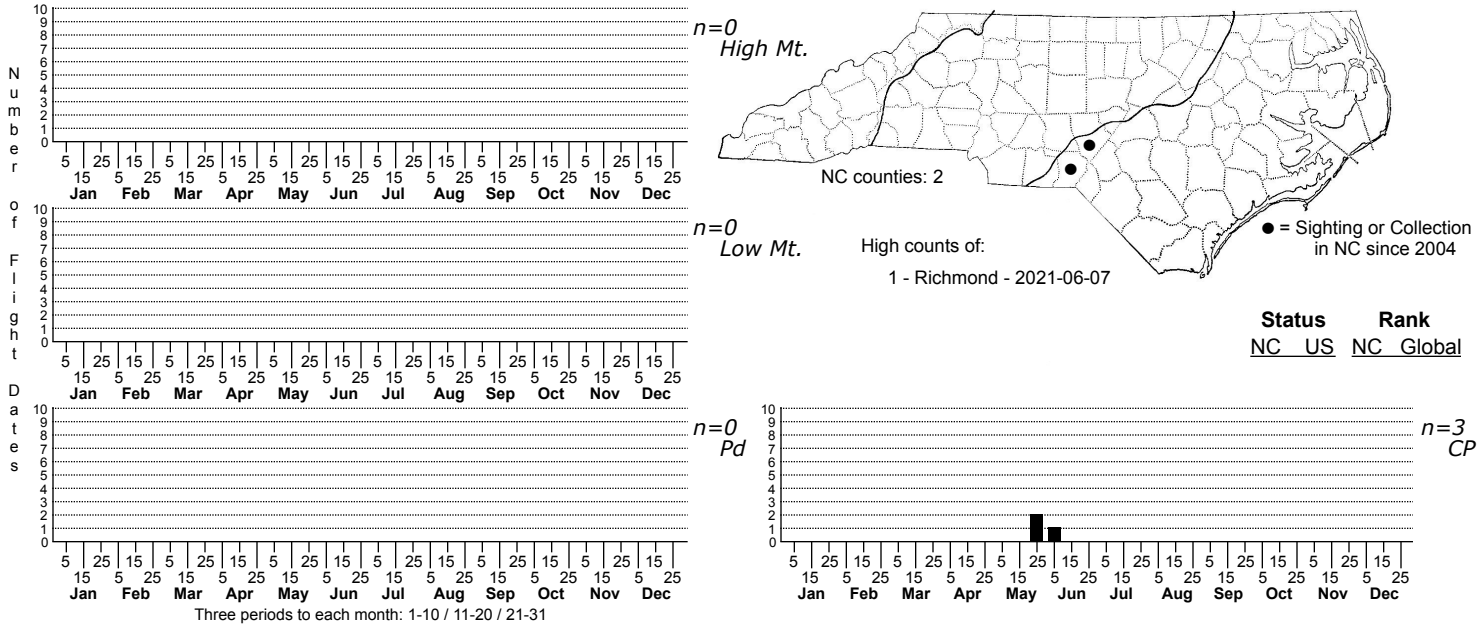
Rupela tinctella Satin Rupela



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Schoenobiinae TRIBE: [Schoenobiini]
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: Heinrich (1937) examined the genitalia of what were thought to be two or three white species of Rupela and was surprised to find that these constituted a group of at least 18 cryptic species with very distinctive genitalia. Only two species are known from North Carolina and in most cases they require the examination of genitalia for identification.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:
ONLINE PHOTOS:
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: Only two species of R. segrega are known from North Carolina. The males and females of R. segrega are identical, with both having an elongated abdomen and the head, thorax, abdomen, and wings white. In contrast, males of our second species, Rupela tinctella, are uniformly brown, while the females are white and indistinguishable from the males and females of R. segrega. Genitalia are required to identify the white forms, while any brown Rupela can be safely assigned to R. tinctella.

DISTRIBUTION: Rupela tinctella is a wide-ranging species that has been documented from southern South America northward through Central America and the Caribbean to the southeastern U.S. where it occurs in coastal habitats from southeastern Texas eastward along the Gulf Coast states to southern Florida and northward to Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina and Maryland.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT:

FOOD: Unknown

OBSERVATION_METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S1S3

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

COMMENTS: