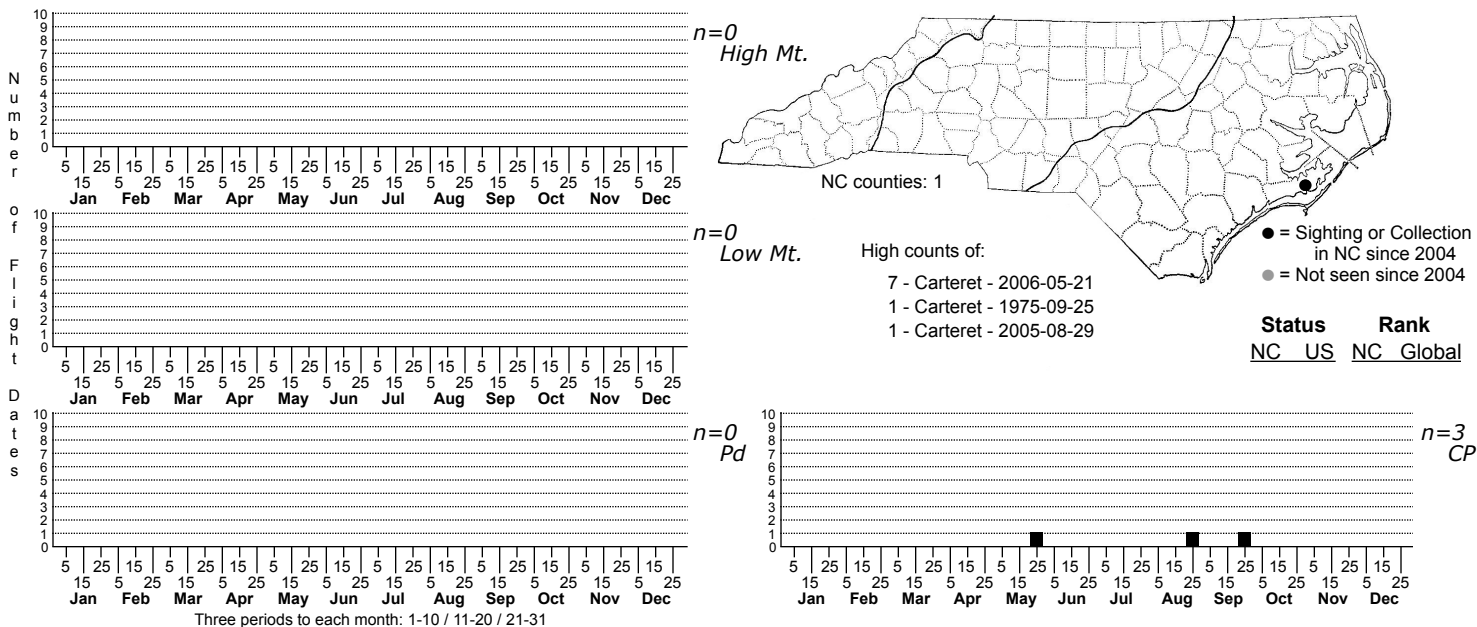


Donacula aquilellus No common name



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Schoenobiinae TRIBE:

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: Members of the genus *Donacaulis* are found worldwide, but reach their greatest diversity in the Nearctic region. The group has proven to be taxonomically challenging due to the fact that most of the species are sexually dimorphic, are very similar externally, and exhibit substantial variation within species. Genitalia have proven to be the most useful diagnostic characters for delineating species, but almost all of the species were originally described based on external coloration and patterning. Descriptions and illustrations of genitalia were also lacking for most species until Martinez (2010) undertook a major revision of the Nearctic species. Her work revealed that there were at least 10 undescribed species in addition to the 11 described species in the New World. Additional studies of DNA barcoding and genitalia, including for North Carolina material, indicate that additional undescribed species remain to be formally described. "Some of these are probably identifiable, but, even with the Martinez thesis, there is a great deal of variation, and especially sexual dimorphism that makes these difficult" (Scholtens, 2017).

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Martinez (2010)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The following is based on the description by Martinez (2010). In the males, the frons is pale yellow, the labial palp is brown, and the antenna is yellowish-white. The thorax is brown and the forewing ground color is brown with scattered yellow scales. There is a small black discal spot and a line of terminal spots between the veins on the outer margin. Females are similar to the males, but have a yellow costal band and lack the small black discal spot. The hindwing of the males is yellowish-white with two longitudinal, brown lines along veins CuA2 and 1A+2A. The hindwing of the females is also yellowish-white, with some veins tinged with light brown.

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: Ferguson (1975) reported that *Donacula aquilellus* is associated with salt marshes in the intertidal zone of all the larger salt marshes in Nova Scotia and is often very abundant.

FOOD: Saltmarsh Cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*) is the only known host (Ferguson, 1975).

OBSERVATION_METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS:

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: