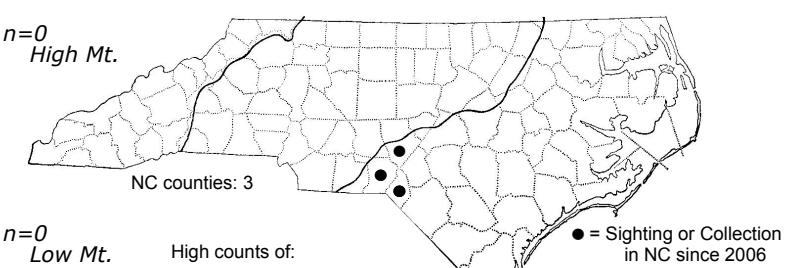
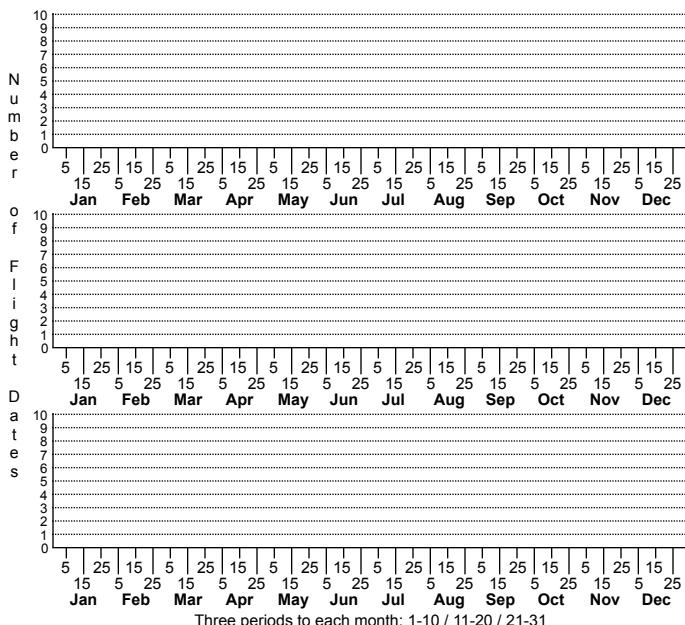


# *Mesolia incertellus* None



Status	Rank		
NC	US	NC	Global

FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Crambinae TRIBE: Prionapterygini  
TAXONOMIC COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: In this species the palps, head and thorax when viewed from above are white with darker dusting and marks. The palps tend to be whitish with darker, brushy scales near the end, and the thorax has three dark spots that form a triangular pattern. The forewing ground color is white and is dusted with dark brown on the basal half, as well as the region between the median and postmedial lines. The heavy dusting on the basal half is often organized as a dark streak that extends along the basal half of the costa and subcostal region. Several dark brown to blackish marks overlay the ground. These include an abbreviated antemedial line that is represented as a dark blotch on the inner margin, a broad, jagged, median line that is complete, and a thinner, jagged, dark brown, postmedial line at about four-fifths the wing length that widens at the costa and inner margin to form a small spot. The postmedial is marginated on its outer side by a contrasting thin line of white ground color. The white ground is in turn followed by a zone of heavy dark brown dusting that may fill most of the subterminal area except for a prominent white patch near the middle of the wing, an oblique white streak near the apex, and a narrow band of white near the tornus (sometimes missing). There is a thin, dark brown, terminal line along the outer margin. The fringe is whitish, but fades to brown near the tip. There is also a prominent, dark brown basal line on the apical third of the fringe that fades towards the tornal half. The hindwing varies from grayish-brown to light brown and is unmarked except for a thin, dark brown, terminal line. The fringe is pale white and has a darker basal line that is most prominent on the apical third.

DISTRIBUTION: <u>Mesolia incertellus</u> is most common in Florida from the Panhandle to the Keys, but scattered records are known from mostly coastal habitats in South Carolina, North Carolina and New Jersey. There is also an isolated record from western Kentucky that is questionable. As of 2023, all of our records are from the Sandhills.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults fly year-round in Florida and during the summer months elsewhere. As of 2023, all of our records are from early-June through late-July.

HABITAT: Our records are all from xeric habitats in the Sandhills.

FOOD: The hosts are undocumented.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to blacklights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S1S2]

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

COMMENTS: This species appears to be rare in areas outside of Florida. In North Carolina it is only known from the Sandhills where it appears to constitute a northern disjunct population.