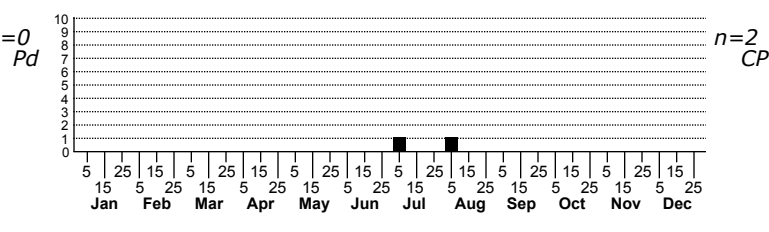
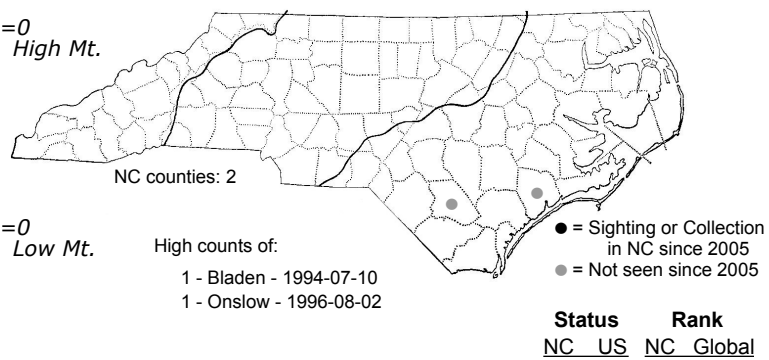


Prionapteryx nebulifera Clouded Vener Moth



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Crambinae TRIBE:
 TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1923).

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Daecke (1905).

ID COMMENTS: *Prionapteryx nebulifera* is somewhat variable in coloration and patterning, but most specimens are boldly marked with black and white patterning on the forewing. The following description is based in part on that of Forbes (1923).

The head, thorax and prominent palps are mostly blackish. The forewing has alternating bands or patches of black and white scaling. The base of the wing has a complete black patch, and the costa and subcostal region is reddish-brown to black except at the apex where there is a white patch that adjoins a dark tooth on the outer margin. The basal patch adjoins a white fascia at around one-fourth the wing length that terminates in the subcostal region. The white fascia has irregular margins on both sides, and is followed posteriorly by a broad zone of blackish scaling that forms a diffuse medial band that extends from the inner margin to the subcostal region. The black band is often broken by a zigzag white medial line along its posterior half. Beyond that, the dorsal two-thirds of the wing is mostly white except for small amounts of darker dusting along portions of the inner and outer margin. The postmedial line is whitish with darker dusting on the basal margin, and the fringe is pale-colored except on the tooth next to the apex. The legs are boldly marked with alternating black and white bands, and the hindwing is brown to pale-gray with a whitish fringe. This species is most commonly black, but some specimens have most of the black replaced by reddish or reddish-brown scaling.

DISTRIBUTION: *Prionapteryx nebulifera* is found in Manitoba and Ontario, and in the eastern US where it is confined to regions with sandy soils and the appropriate host plants. The range in the US extends from Alabama, Florida and Georgia northward along the Coastal Plain to Rhode Island and New Hampshire. Populations also occur in sandy habitats in the Great Lakes region in Wisconsin, Michigan and Canada, and as a possible geographic isolate in central Oklahoma. As of 2024, we have two site records from the southern Coastal Plain.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been found from May through October in different areas of the range, with northern populations having a brief flight period relative to those in Florida and Alabama. As of 2024, our two records are from mid-July and early-August.

HABITAT: Local populations are restricted to sandy habitats with low-growing members of the Ericaceae, and mostly to mesic, coastal pine forests in North Carolina.

FOOD: The reported hosts include Sand-myrtle (*Kalmia buxifolia* [= *Leiophyllum buxifolium*]) and a huckleberry (presumably *Gaylussacia*, but possibly *Vaccinium*) as reported by Daecke, 1905). The sand tunnels have also been found on Sand Cherry (*Prunus pumila*) in Wisconsin (BugGuide).

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights, and the distinctive sand tunnels can be observed on Sand-myrtle and other host plants.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR[S1S2]

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: This species appears to be rare in North Carolina, probably due to its dependence of sandy soils to make burrows and Sand-myrtle, which is likely the primary host plant in North Carolina.