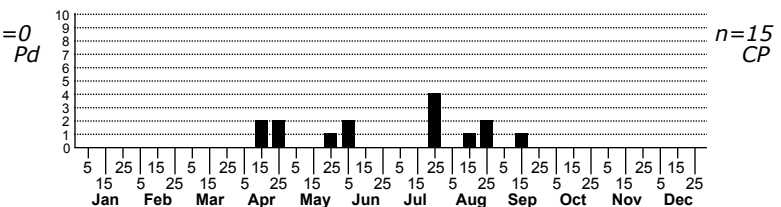
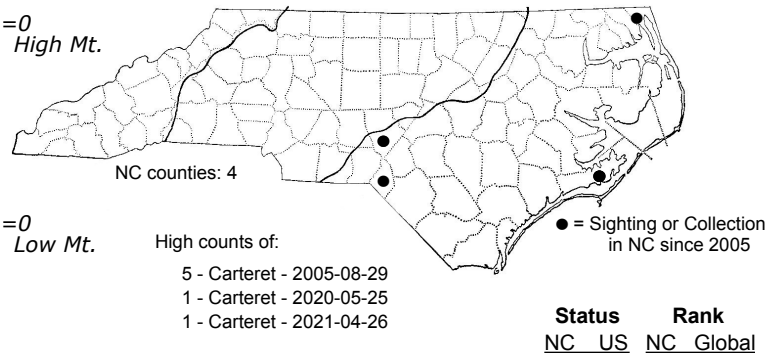


Prionapteryx achatina None



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Crambinae TRIBE: Prionapterygini
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Fernald (1896).

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: In this species the head, thorax, and forward-projecting palps are brown. The forewing has a pale white ground color, much of which is masked with a dark brown, diffuse shading and darker marks. The costa and subcostal region has a dark brown longitudinal streak that extends from the base to near the apex. The streak is bordered by a lighter region in the middle of the wing and is interrupted by an outwardly oblique, short, white costal streak at about one-half the wing length, and a white postmedial line at about three-fourths that is outwardly bowed. The first streak is shaded with dark brown outwardly, while the postmedial line is shaded with dark brown inwardly on the costal half of the wing. The dorsal half of the wing is lighter colored and has two blackish-brown blotches that include a relatively small blotch at around one-fourth along the inner margin, and a larger and often z-shaped patch just beyond the middle. The subterminal region is shaded with brown except for a prominent, squarish white patch near the middle of the wing, and one or two narrow outwardly oblique streaks in the apical region. The fringe is mostly white. The hindwing is uniformly brown and also has a white fringe.

DISTRIBUTION: *Prionapteryx achatina* is found in eastern and central North America. Specimens have been observed in three geographically separate areas that include 1) coastal and Coastal Plain communities from New Hampshire southward to Georgia, southern Florida, and Alabama, 2) the Great Lakes region in southern Minnesota, Wisconsin, northern Illinois, northern Indiana, northern Ohio, and southern Ontario, and 3) central Texas, southeastern Arizona, southwestern New Mexico and Colorado. As of 2023, all of our records are from the Coastal Plain, including the Sandhills and a barrier island.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been observed from April through October in Florida and from March through September elsewhere, with peak seasonal activity typically in July. As of 2023, we have records from mid-April through mid-September. The population at Fort Macon State Park appear to be bivoltine, with a spring and late-summer generation, while the Sandhills population appears to be univoltine with only a late-summer brood.

HABITAT: Local populations in North Carolina are found in xeric habitats, including Sandhill Longleaf Pine forests and maritime scrub and spoil communities.

FOOD: The host plants (if any) are undocumented.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR SNR [S2S3]

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

COMMENTS: This species is uncommon in North Carolina and is only known from the Sandhills and Fort Macon State Park as of 2023. It appears to occupy a fairly restricted habitats but we need additional information on its distribution, abundance, host plants and larval life history before we can accurately assess its conservation status within the state.