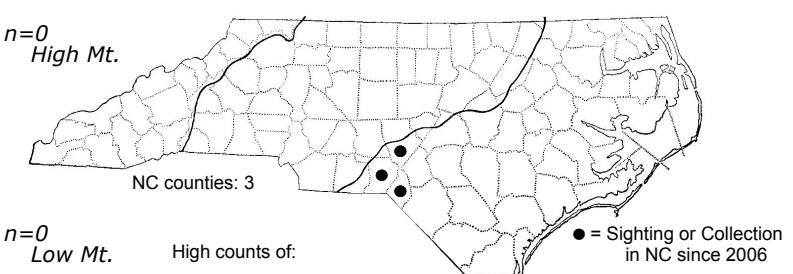


# *Thaumatopsis edonis* Grassland Thaumatopsis



High counts of:  
 5 - Richmond - 2025-10-02  
 3 - Scotland - 2022-09-26  
 3 - Richmond - 2025-10-02

Status	Rank		
NC	US	NC	Global

n=12  
CP

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

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Fernald (1896).]

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: This is a rather distinctive species due to its coloration and patterning, large size for a Crambini, and pectinate antennae that are held upwards when an individual is resting. The head and thorax are light reddish-brown, the large palps vary from light brown to reddish-brown, and the prominent antennae are dark brown and bipectinate in the males. The forewing has a prominent, diffuse pink or salmon-colored streak along the costal and subcostal region of the wing that extends from near the wing base to the outer margin. The veins are concolorous with the streak, except for a whitish middle vein that extends from the wing base before fading at around two-thirds the wing length. The areas between the veins and dorsal to the pink streak are heavily shaded with varying amounts dark brown. The termen has a line of four or five faint brown dots, and the fringe is brown overall with three or four finely striated brown lines within. The hindwing is pale brown with a paler fringe.

DISTRIBUTION: <i>Thaumatopsis edonis</i> appears to be an uncommon but broadly distributed species, with scattered records across much of the eastern U.S. The range extends from Maine to southern Florida and westward to central Texas, central Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, and Kentucky, with one isolated record from northern Nebraska.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Local populations appear to be univoltine throughout the range with a brief flight season centered on September and October. The adults have been observed from August through November in different areas of the range. As of 2023, our records are from late-September through mid-October.

HABITAT: All of our records are from the Sandhills and mostly from fire-maintained Longleaf Pine forests, with a few sites in the vicinity of seeps or headwater streams. The sites typically have well-developed ground vegetation with a diverse mix of grasses and forbs.

FOOD: The host plants are apparently undocumented. Heppner (2007) lists grasses, but we are unaware of any actual observations of larvae, and it may be based on the common host plants of related species.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights and can be flushed from ground vegetation and netted.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR SNR [S1S3]

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 throughout its range, with widely scattered populations across the eastern U.S. North Carolina populations are restricted to fire-maintained communities in the Sandhills.