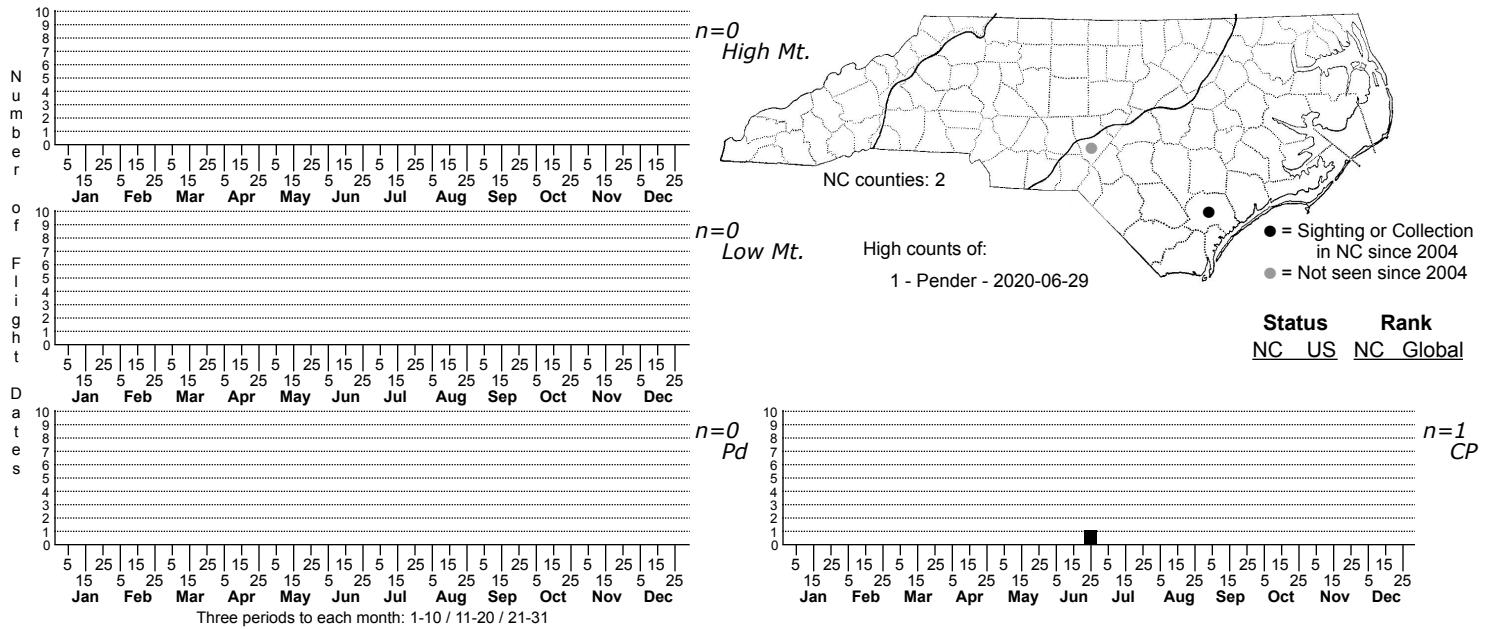


Argyria rufisignella Mother-of-pearl Moth



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Crambinae TRIBE: Argyriini
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Martinez and Brown (2007)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: In this species the palps, head, and thorax are a rich rusty-red and the antennae are brown. The forewing is satiny white with the costal margin that is either mostly satiny-white, or with a faint light brown line from the base to as far as the apex. The inner margin has a reddish-brown spot at around two-thirds the wing length, and the costal has two short, outwardly oblique, reddish-brown streaks at around two-thirds and four-fifths the wing length. The terminal line is represented by seven diffuse reddish-brown to fuscous spots that are bordered basally with a dark-brown to blackish, scalloped line. The fringe is reddish-tan apically with a darker basal line, and the hindwing is off-white with a well-developed off-white fringe.

DISTRIBUTION: *Argyria rufisignella* is an uncommon species that is found primarily in the eastern U.S. Widely scattered records are known from Maine, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Florida, Alabama, Texas, Arizona, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois and southern Ontario. As of 2023, we have only two confirmed records, and both are from the Coastal Plain.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been observed from May through September in different areas of the range. As of 2023, we have only one dated record that is from late-June.

HABITAT: This species has been found in open habitats such as barrens, prairies, and coastal pinelands. Our one record is from a Longleaf pine savanna.

FOOD: The larval hosts are undocumented. Heppner (2007) list the hosts as 'grass' but did not provide any evidence for this. It may simply reflect the tendency for many members of this taxonomic group to use grasses as hosts.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR SU

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

COMMENTS: