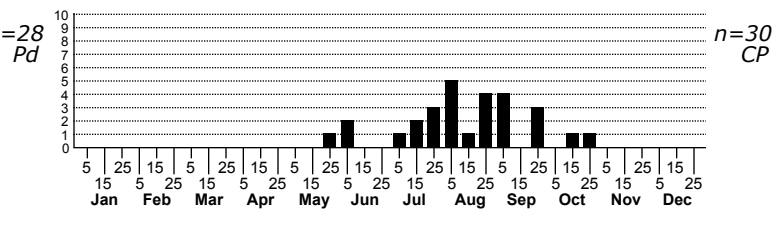
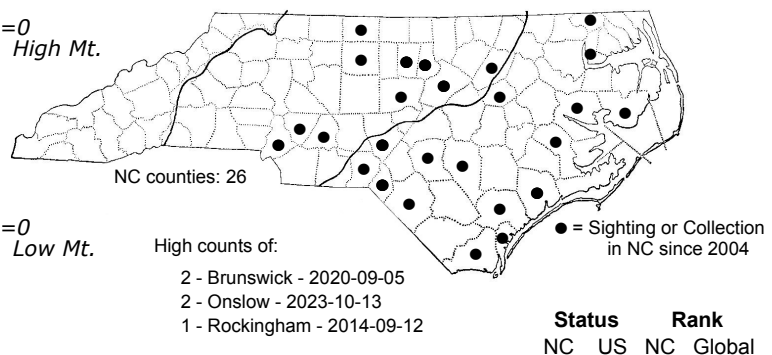
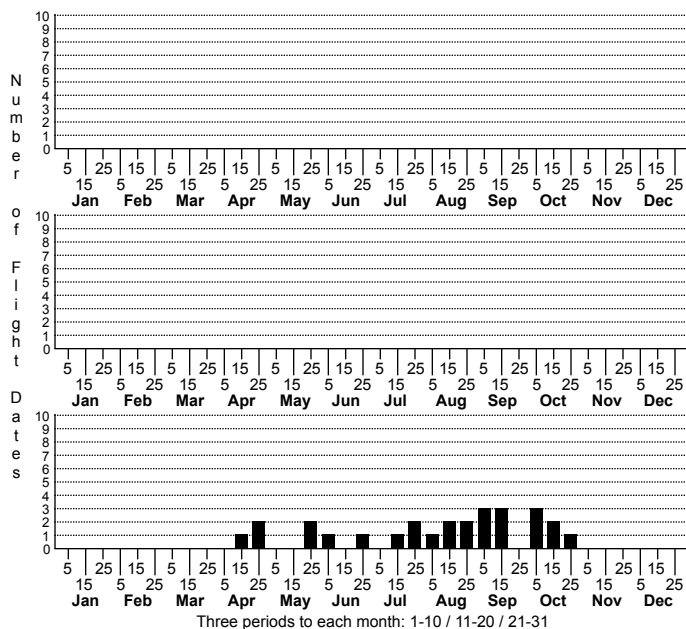


Argyria gonogramma Milky Urola Moth



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Crambinae TRIBE: Argyriini

TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: Landry et al. (2023) conducted a comprehensive study of populations that were previously referred to as *Argyria lacteella* and related species. They made several taxonomic changes and concluded that *Argyria lacteella* (sensu stricto) is confined to Florida in the U.S. Specimens from North Carolina and much of the southeastern U.S. that were previously treated as *Argyria lacteella* have been assigned a new name, *Argyria gonogramma*. The latter is native to the U.S., while *Argyria lacteella* appears to have recently been introduced to Florida (oldest records from 1979) from perhaps Central or South America where it is native.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Landry et al. (2023)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Landry et al. (2023)

ID COMMENTS: This is a distinctive species that, when viewed from above, has brown antennae, white palps, a coppery-red head that is often white on the front, and a white thorax. The forewing is satiny-white and there are two blackish-brown spots in the median area, one on the discal cell near the center of the wing that is rounded, and the other on the inner margin that is more triangular-shaped (Landry et al., 2023). The costa has two short, curved dark-brown streaks, with one just beyond the middle and the second in the subapical area. In fresh specimens the two median spots and the first streak on the costa are connected by a rather faint, wavy line that is sometimes broken. The curved streak in the subapical area often has 1–3 reddish-brown lines that extend from the streak to the outer margin below the apex. A dark-brown to blackish terminal line is present on the outer margin, and the fringe is coppery colored. The hindwing and fringe are white, and sometimes with a faint row of spots along the outer margin.

DISTRIBUTION: *Argyria gonogramma* is primarily found in the southeastern U.S., as well as Bermuda and the Bahamas (Landry et al., 2023). This species is most closely associated with the southeastern Coastal Plain and Piedmont, but occurs outside of these physiographic provinces in several areas of the range. In the U.S. the range extends from New York and vicinity southward to southern Florida, and westward to central Texas, central Oklahoma, Arkansas, western Kentucky and Illinois. Isolated records are known from other areas, including Vermont, eastern Missouri, eastern Iowa, Indiana, southern Ohio and northeastern West Virginia. As of 2023, our records are all from the Coastal Plain and eastern Piedmont.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults fly year-round or nearly so in the southernmost areas of the range, including Florida, Alabama, Louisiana and Texas. Farther north, the main flight period is from May through October. As of 2023, our records range from mid-April through late-October. Local populations in North Carolina appear to produce two or three overlapping generations each year.

HABITAT: This species commonly shows up in residential neighborhoods. We have also taken it in a variety of natural habitats that range from xeric communities in the Sandhills to bottomland, alluvial forests.

FOOD: Landry et al. (2023) reported that Tan (1984) was successful in rearing this species from egg to adult on St. Augustine Grass (*Stenotaphrum secundatum*; Poaceae). We have been unable to secure Tan's document and are uncertain if observations were made of the larvae using St. Augustine Grass in the wild. This species is a warm-weather grass and is clearly not being used by larvae in the upper Coastal Plain and Piedmont of North Carolina. However, other members of the Poaceae could potentially serve as hosts.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights and are occasionally spotted resting on vegetation during the day.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S4-S5]

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: This species is locally common within the state and frequently found in residential developments. It appears to be secure in North Carolina.