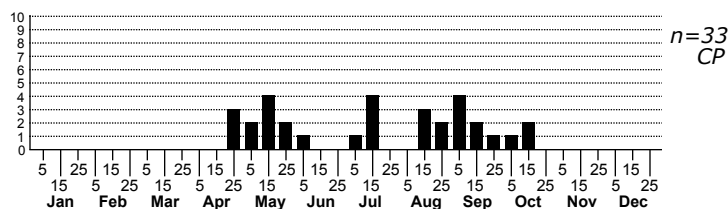
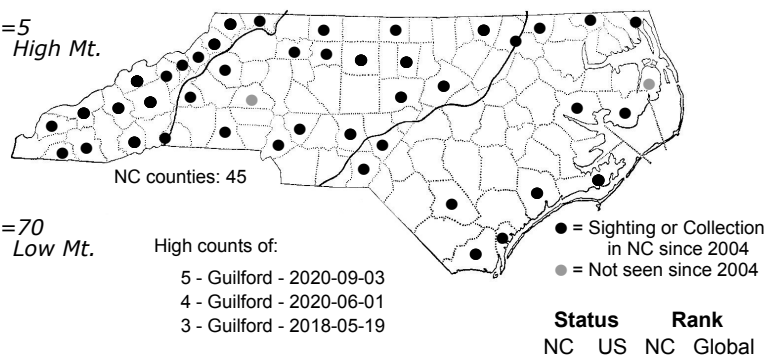
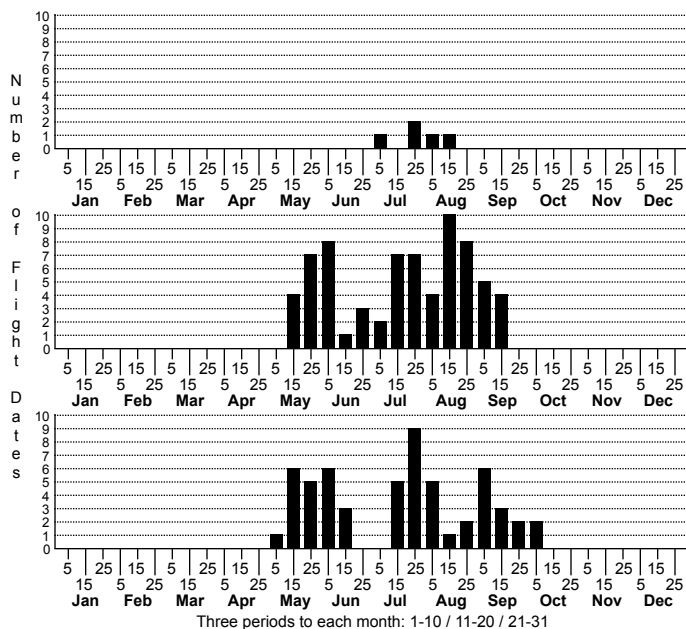


## *Urola nivalis* Snowy Urola Moth



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Crambinae TRIBE: Argyriini  
 TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984); Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Martinez and Brown (2007)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: This is a distinctive species that has the head and palps silvery-white above with chestnut-brown scales along the sides. The forelegs and antennae are also chestnut brown, while the thorax is mostly white with a faint line of brownish-orange scales near the center. The forewing is silvery-white and unmarked except for a single brownish-black spot near the middle of the inner margin, and a dark-brown to blackish terminal line on the outer margin. The fringe is golden-brown, while the hindwing is white with a prominent white fringe. *Urola nivalis* is similar to *Argyria gonogramma*, but the latter has two dark spots in the middle of the wing and two short costal streaks on the apical half of the wing.

DISTRIBUTION: *Urola nivalis* is a very common and widespread species in the central and eastern U.S. and adjoining areas of southern Canada (Manitoba; Ontario; Quebec; New Brunswick; Nova Scotia). In the U.S. this species is found in every state east of a line running from Arizona northeastward to North Dakota. It also occurs in the West Indies and portions of Mexico. This species occurs statewide in North Carolina.

FLIGHT COMMENT: This species flies year-round or nearly so in southern states such as Florida, Alabama and Texas, and mostly from May through September in the northern portion of the range. As of 2023, our records range from late-April through mid-October. Local populations in North Carolina appear to have two or three generations per year except in the higher elevations in the Blue Ridge.

HABITAT: Our records are mostly from residential and suburban neighborhoods, and fragmented landscapes with mixtures of fields, forests, and roadway and utility corridors.

FOOD: *Urola nivalis* has been generally reported to feed on 'grasses' (Covell, 1984; Heppner, 2007; Solis 2008), but we are unaware of any specific studies or rearing records that document this or report specific grass host species.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S4S5

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

COMMENTS: This is a common species that occurs statewide and appears to be secure.