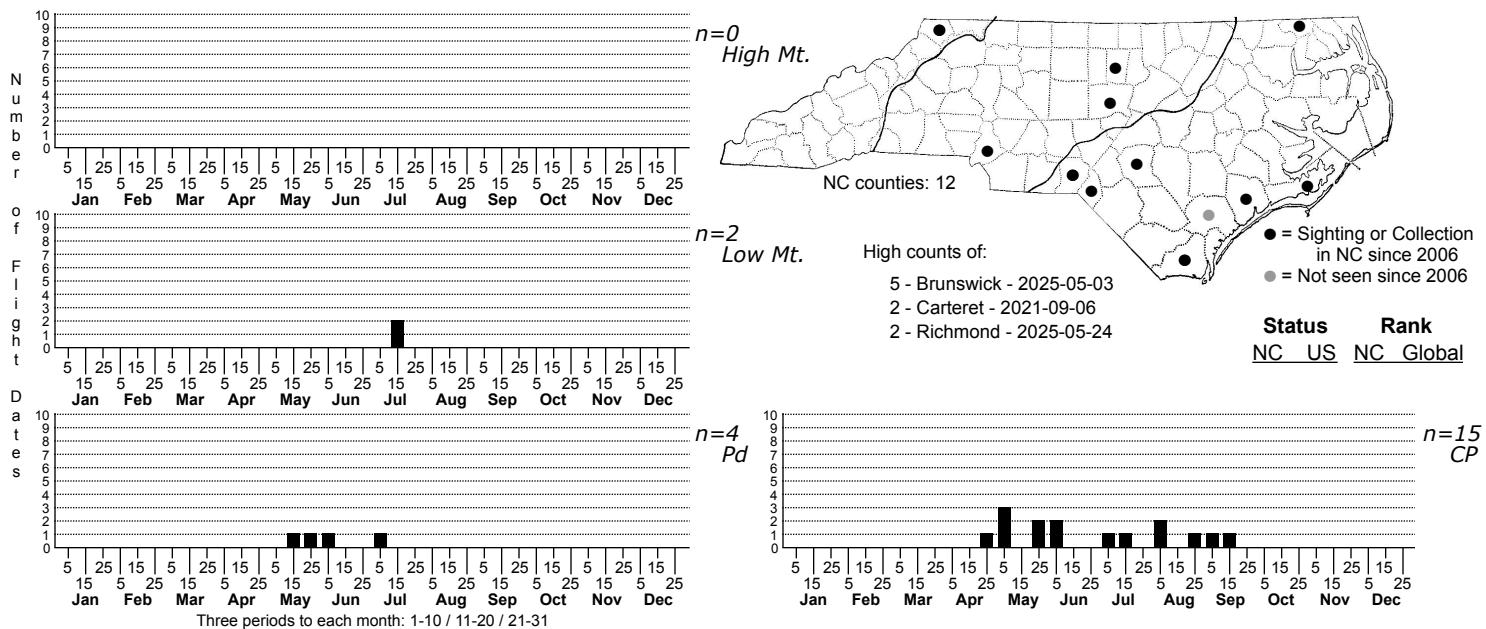


Vaxi auratellus Curve-lined Vaxi



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: *Vaxi auratellus* is a distinctively marked crambid that is boldly patterned with orange and white. The palps and head are white above, with the sides of both colored orange. The forelegs are orange, and the thorax has a thin white center with orange dorsally and laterally. The forewing has a silvery-white ground color with a broad, orange, outwardly-oblique median band that widens markedly as it approaches the inner margin. The terminal line and fringe are both orange, with the former connected to the median band by a narrow orange neck along the inner margin. The median band is margined on both sides by a thin line of dark orangish-brownish scales, while the terminal line has a similar margin of dark scales on its inner side. The hindwing is white with a white fringe. *Vaxi critica* is similar, but the median band does not widen dramatically as it approaches the inner margin to produce a connecting neck between it and the terminal line.

DISTRIBUTION: *Vaxi auratellus* is widely distributed across much of the eastern and central U.S., and in adjoining areas of southern Canada (Saskatchewan; Manitoba; Ontario; Quebec; New Brunswick; Nova Scotia). In the U.S. the range extends from Maine southward to southern Florida, and westward to central Texas, central Oklahoma, eastern Kansas, eastern Nebraska, Indiana, Wisconsin and Minnesota. Isolated records are also known from Colorado. As of 2023, we have one site record from the northern Blue Ridge, with the remainder from the Piedmont and Coastal Plain.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults fly year-round in Florida and from April through October elsewhere, with a seasonal peak typically from June through August. As of 2023, our records range from late-April through mid-September. Coastal Plain populations appear to have two or three generations per year.

HABITAT: This species is generally associated with wet, open habitats. We have records from a mountain bog, from sites in the Sandhills with seepage slopes or headwater streams adjoining Long-leaf Pine communities, and from lake margins, wet savannas, and other coastal wetlands.

FOOD: The hosts are apparently undocumented.

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

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [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 the state and generally associated with wetlands. Additional information is needed on its host plants and preferred habits before we can accurately assess its conservation status.