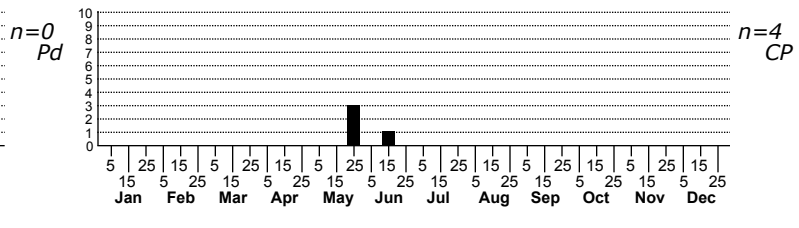
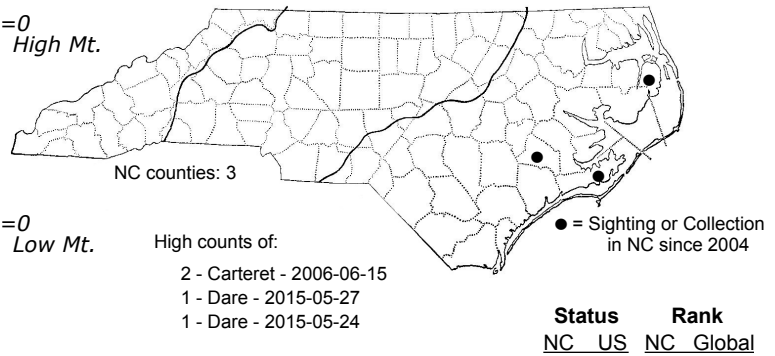
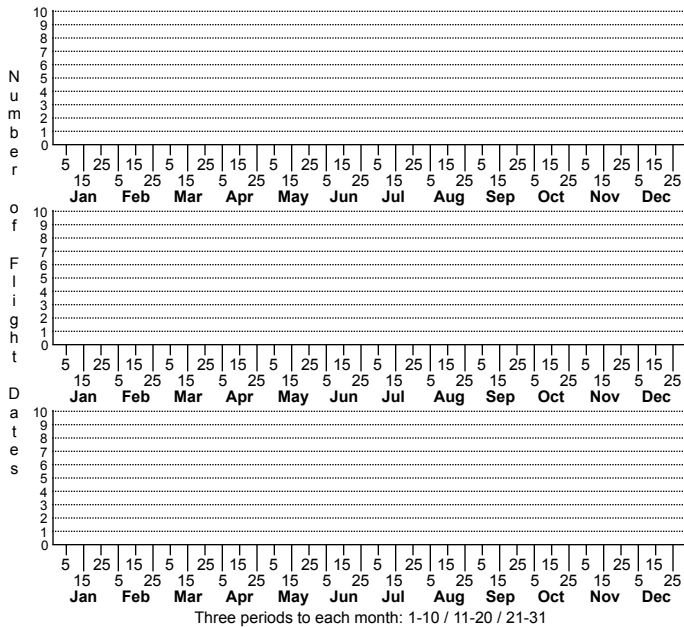


Epina dichromella No common name



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Crambinae TRIBE: Chiloini (=unplaced)
 TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Fernald (1888).

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The following description is based in part on that of Fernald (1888). This is a rather non-descript species with an overall brown color. In males, the head, palps, antennae, and thorax are rich dark brown. The forewing ground is similar, with fine, scattered, blackish dots. A dark spot is present just beyond one-half the wing length at about one-third the distance inward from the costa. Many specimens show evidence of a darker brown, diffuse shade from near the cell to the termen at about one-third the distance from the apex, and a second diffuse shade that extends from the middle of the wing base and weakly curves to the tornus. The area between this and the inner margin is lighter colored than the general ground color and often finely speckled with darker scales. The terminal line is represented as a row of seven fine black dots, and the fringe is paler than the adjoining ground color. The hindwing tends to be paler along the inner margin and tornal regions relative to the remainder of the wing, which is light buff. Fernald (1888) noted that the females are similar in overall patterning, but differ in being lighter and more brownish-yellow overall. The shading on the forewing tends more towards yellow, and the dots that are sprinkled over the wing are brown rather than black as seen in the males.

DISTRIBUTION: *Epina dichromella* occurs in coastal wetlands, with scattered records from Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina and Florida. As of 2023, we have only three site records for the state.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults fly from March through October in Florida, and have been observed from May through August elsewhere. As of 2023, our records are from late-May through mid-June.

HABITAT: This species appears to be closely tied to the tidewater region but occurring at least a few miles inland from the coast in some areas.

FOOD: The only reported host is the widely cultivated Asian Rice (*Oryza sativa*; Robinson et al., 2010). However, Eiseman (BugTracks; January 26, 2015) noted that the record for this species feeding on rice was from Sri Lanka where *Epina dichromella* does not occur, and is undoubtedly erroneous. As such, the hosts that are used by this species remain undocumented.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: [GNR] S1S2

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

COMMENTS: This appears to be a rare species in North Carolina and throughout most of its range, with only three site records for the state. The life history is undocumented, but it appears to be tied to using plants associated with coastal wetlands.