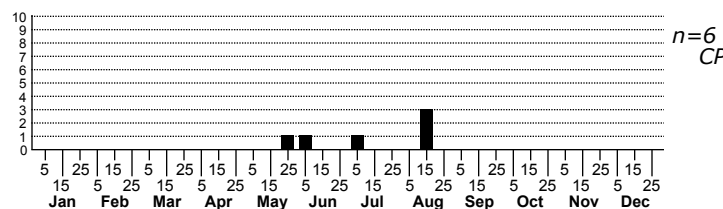
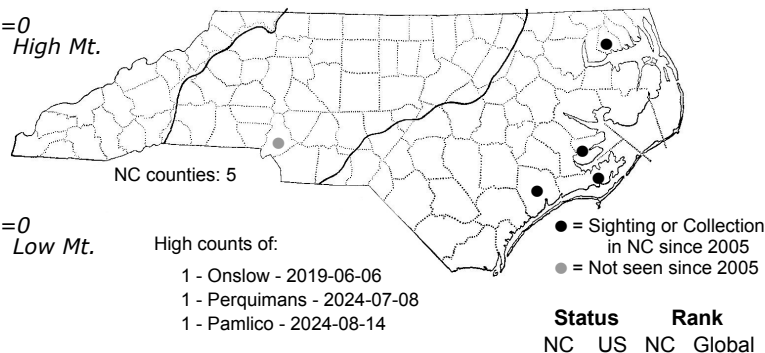
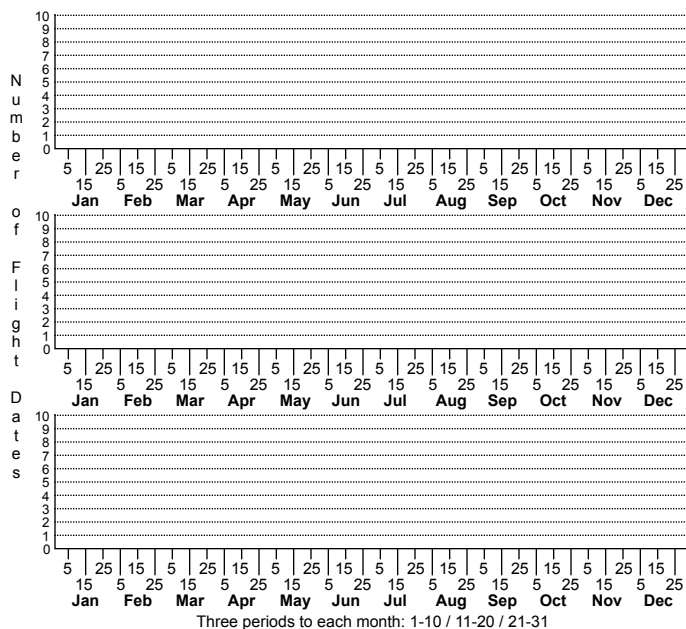


Dioryctria pygmaeella Bald Cypress Coneworm Moth



FAMILY: Pyralidae SUBFAMILY: Phycitinae TRIBE: Phycitini

TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: One of forty species in this genus that occur in North America north of Mexico (Pohl et al., 2016). Eight species have been recorded in North Carolina.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Leckie and Beadle (2018)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Heinrich (1956); Neunzig (1997)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: Mottled with patches or bands of red, black, white, orange, and purple. The pattern and coloration are similar to other species of *Dioryctria*, including *amatella*, *merkei*, *taedivorella*, and *zimmermani*. However, *pygmaeella* is relatively smooth and lacks the heavy ridges of raised scales found in those species.

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: Except for the record from Mecklenburg County, our records all come from the Coastal Plain, with nearly all from sites that contain cypresses. One record from Onslow County, however, comes from a site without any cypresses known to occur nearby but where Red Cedars are likely to occur.

FOOD: Feeds on Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) (Heinrich, 1956) and also Pond Cypress (*T. ascendens*). Heppner (2003), however, also lists Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) as a host plant, at least in Florida.

OBSERVATION_METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S2S4

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

COMMENTS: The possible use of Red Cedars as a larval host plant needs to be investigated here in North Carolina. While we currently assume that this species is a member of the Cypress Swamp and Savannas guild, that could easily change if it feeds to any extent on Red Cedars growing in Coastal Marshes, Dune Grasslands, or other types of habitats further inland.