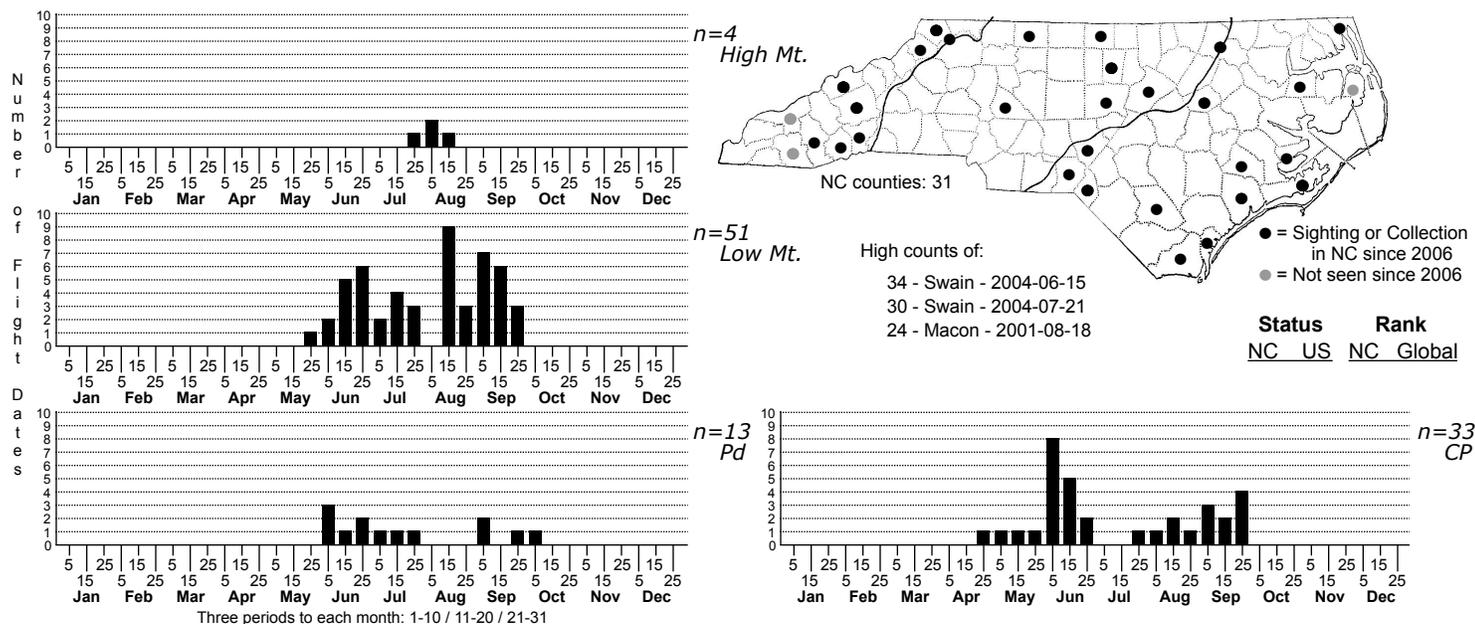


Crambidia pallida Pale Lichen Moth



FAMILY: Erebiidae SUBFAMILY: Arctiinae TRIBE: Lithosiini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of eleven named species in this genus that occur in North America north of Mexico (Lafontaine and Schmidt, 2010, 2015), of which six have been recorded in North Carolina (several others are still undescribed). Two undescribed species that appear to be in the same species complex with *C. pallida* were mentioned by Forbes (1960) and may be present in North Carolina; other undescribed species may also be present.

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1960)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Wagner (2005)

ID COMMENTS: Generally small and pale grayish brown with lighter veins. Both sexes are similar and possess simple antennae, differing from *C. lithosiodes* in both respects. Certain populations are somewhat darker and/or smaller and may represent undescribed species; which one is the true *C. pallida* is unclear.

DISTRIBUTION: The complex occurs statewide; the distribution of the individual species is unclear.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Unclear until the species can be distinguished.

HABITAT: The majority of our records for this complex come from the Coastal Plain, where it occupies a wide range of habitats, including maritime forests, floodplain hardwoods, peatlands, and wet-to-dry Longleaf Pine Communities. Records from the Piedmont and Mountains come from both lowland and upland stands of hardwood forests. Until the members of this complex can be reliably separated, the degree of habitat restriction within this group cannot be determined.

FOOD: Like most Lithosiines, probably feeds on lichens, bark algae, and Cyanobacteria (Covell, 1984; Wagner, 2005).

OBSERVATION_METHODS: Comes commonly to abundantly to blacklight traps. It is rarely, if ever, attracted to bait.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S3S4]

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

COMMENTS: While this complex as a whole appears to be widespread and secure within the state, determination of the conservation status of individual species cannot be determined until the taxonomy of this group is resolved.