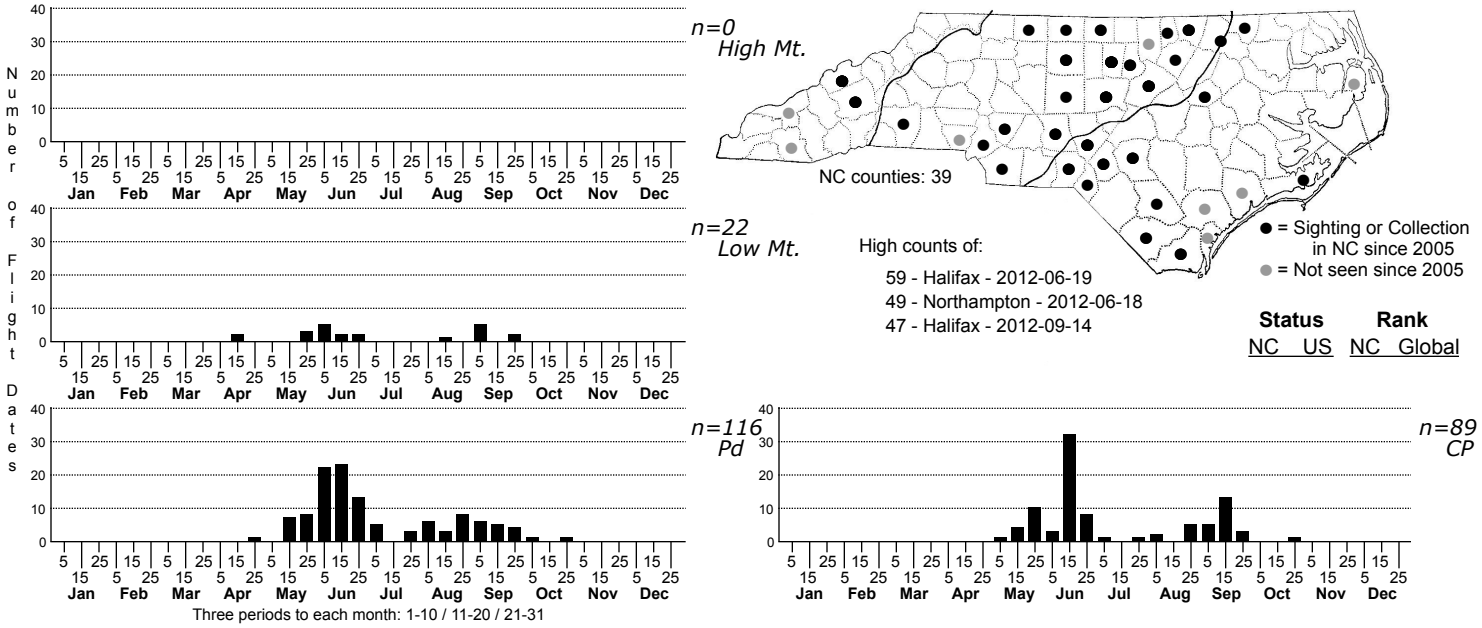
Crambidia uniformis Uniform Lichen Moth



FAMILY: Erebidae 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 been recorded in North Carolina (several others are still undescribed)

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984)
ONLINE PHOTOS:
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1960)
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: (None)

ID COMMENTS: Dark blackish gray, with light shading on the veins but without any shading into the grayish brown ground color found in the pallida complex; usually narrower (with wings folded) than the pallida complex and smaller than at least some forms of that group. Both sexes are similar in coloration and have simple antennae, separating them from lithosiodes; females also lack the yellow costa found in the otherwise similarly darkly colored females of lithosiodes. Forbes (1960) illustrates the valves of the male and there are at least some small differences that appear to separate uniformis from pallida.

DISTRIBUTION: Probably occurs over most of the state except possibly the High Mountains

FLIGHT COMMENT: May have two distinct flights

HABITAT: This species ppears to be strongly associated with hardwood forests; it is much scarcer in Longleaf Pine habitats than either lithosiodes or the pallida complex and not recorded at all from peatlands. It occurs most frequently in mesic and riparian hardwoods but has also been recorded in drier forests, including maritime forests and at least some ridges in the Piedmont and Mountains.

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. Rarely, if ever, attracted to bait.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR SNR [S4S5]

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

COMMENTS: Given the commonness of their host plants, wide habitat range -- including suburban areas -- and statewide distribution, this species can easily recover from localized losses and is likely to be secure within the state.