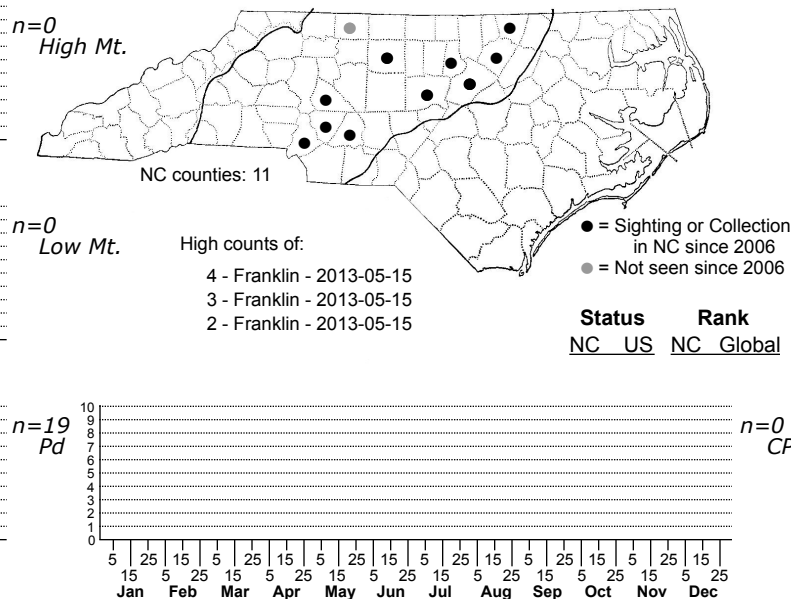
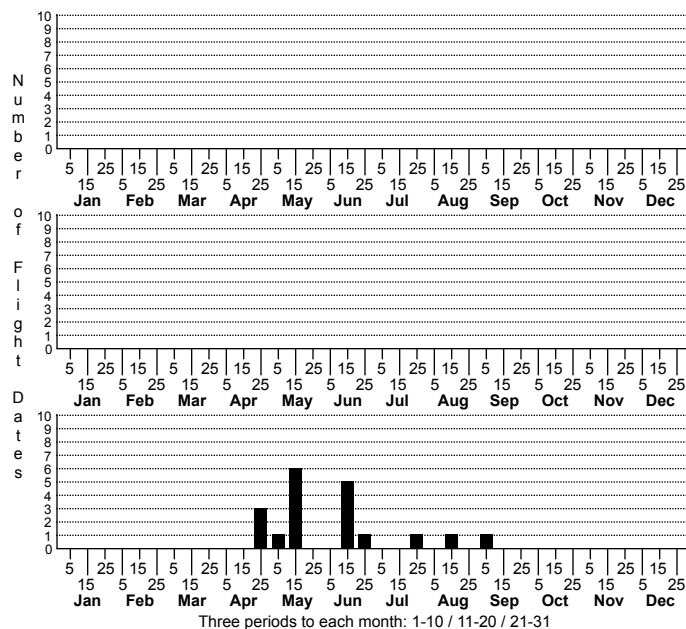


Zanclognatha lituralis complex No common name



FAMILY: Erebidae SUBFAMILY: TRIBE:

TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: Populations that are currently recognized as *Zanclognatha lituralis* appear to constitute a species complex composed of at least two species (Rings et al., 1996). Barcoding indicates that there are two distinct genetic groups in North Carolina that differ genetically by more than two percent. The two groups seem to segregate spatially, with true *Z. lituralis* occurring in the Blue Ridge and western Piedmont, and a second species (here referred to as '*Zanclognatha* near *lituralis*') occurring in the Coastal Plain (J.B. Sullivan, pers. comm.). Specimens from the Blue Ridge and Box Creek Preserve in Rutherford County barcode as true *Z. lituralis*, while over 20 specimens from several sites in the Coastal Plain all barcode as '*Zanclognatha* near *lituralis*'. Specimens from the central and eastern Piedmont have yet to be barcoded and could possibly be mixtures of both forms. Here, we provisionally treat specimens from the Blue Ridge and western Piedmont as *Z. lituralis* and those from the Coastal Plain as '*Zanclognatha* near *lituralis*'. Those from the central and eastern Piedmont are placed in this account as members of the *Z. lituralis* complex since their taxonomic affinities are uncertain.

Dissections so far have not shown definitive characters that will separate the two species. In females there are three potential characters that may be helpful. These include the ductus being shorter in true *Z. lituralis*, the anterior end of the ductus being sclerotized in '*Zanclognatha* near *lituralis*', and the field of cornuti beneath the crenulated anterior end of the bursa being vertically divided in '*Zanclognatha* near *lituralis*'. Macro characters that might help include the average size of specimens and the clarity of the markings on the forewing. More data is need on size, and we encourage submitters to report the front wing lengths of their specimens.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS:

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT:

FOOD:

OBSERVATION_METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS:

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: