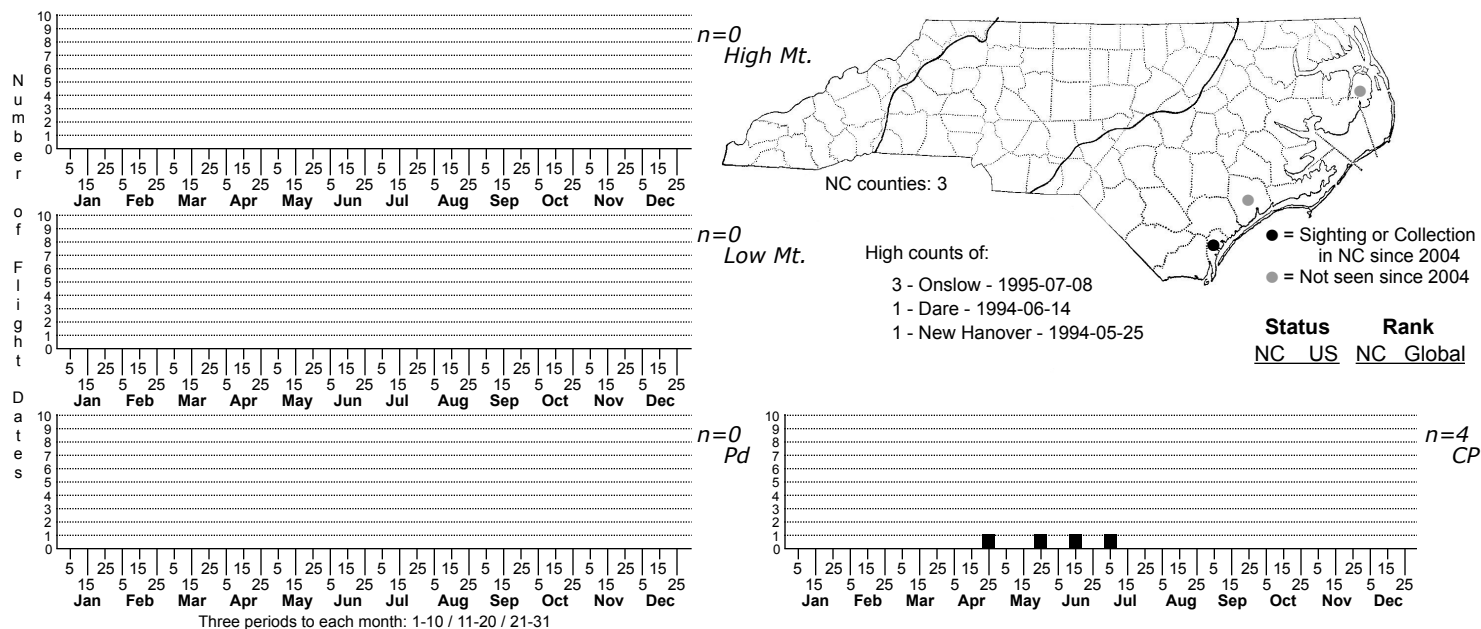


Macrochilo santerivalis An Owlet Moth



FAMILY: Erebidae SUBFAMILY: Herminiinae TRIBE:

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of seven species in this genus that occur in North America north of Mexico (Lafontaine and Schmidt, 2010), six of which have been recorded in North Carolina

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS: MPG, BugGuide, BOLD

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Ferguson (1982)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: A medium-sized, pale brown Deltoid. The ground color of the forewings is light brown, with two dark brown dots in the discal area. Transverse lines are absent, but a diffuse dark streak extends from the discal dots outward to the subterminal area, where it make a bend up to the apex (Ferguson, 1982). *Macrochilo louisiana* is similar in color but is smaller; lacks the dark horizontal streak; and in the males has at least a broken postmedian line, bordered with brown. *M. bivittata* is also very similar but has not been recorded in our area. Other species of *Macrochilo* have well-defined transverse lines.

DISTRIBUTION: Restricted to the Tidewater area of the state

FLIGHT COMMENT: In South Carolina, there appear to be two flights, one in the spring and one in late summer (Ferguson, 1982). Our three records come from May-July, probably corresponding the first flight period observed further south

HABITAT: All known records for this species come from coastal marshes, including freshwater as well as brackish varieties

FOOD: Unknown, but possibly withered graminoids, as has been reported for other species of *Macrochilo*

OBSERVATION_METHODS: Comes to light but we have too few records to know how strongly

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G3G4 S2S3

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

COMMENTS: We have very few records for this species, which also appears to be true for its entire range. However, this may be an artifact resulting from the low level of moth surveys that have been conducted in coastal marsh habitats. More intensive surveys are needed both to determine its host plants as well as to determine its actual distribution and abundance within the state.