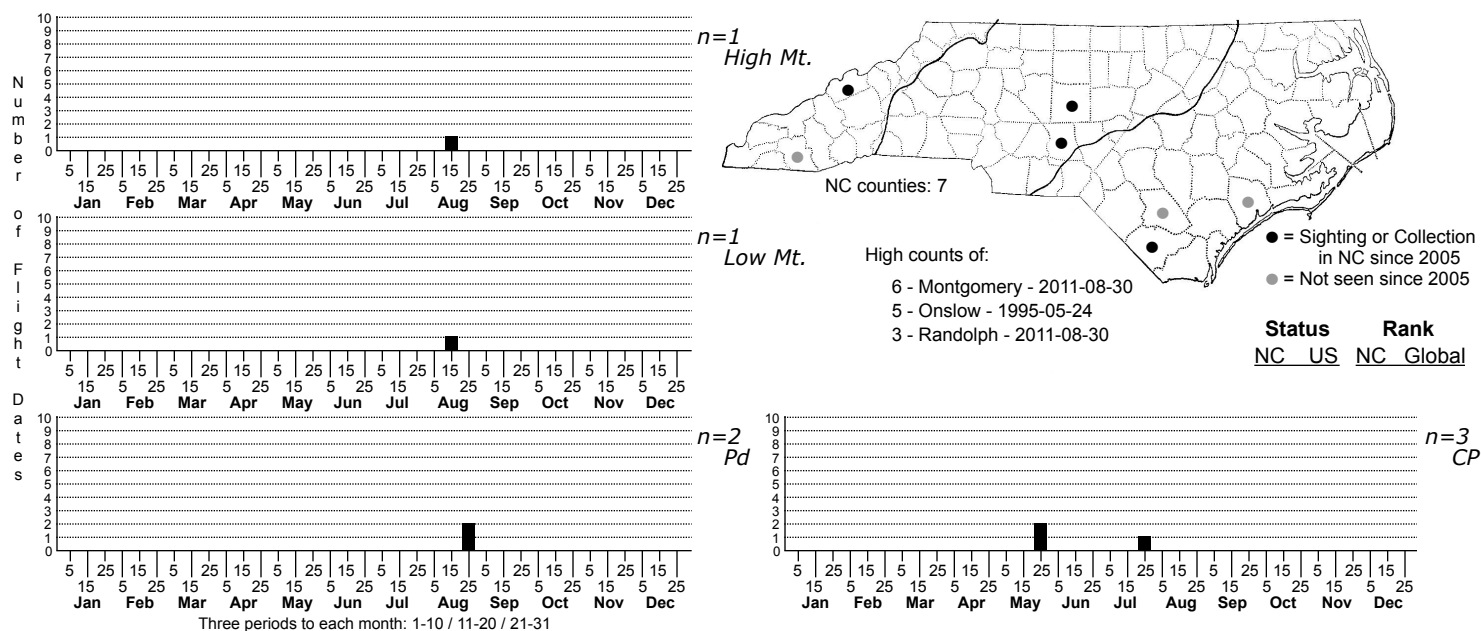


Bleptina sangamonica None



FAMILY: Erebiidae SUBFAMILY: Herminiinae TRIBE:

TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: One of seven species in this genus that occur in North America (Lafontaine and Schmidt, 2010); three have been recorded in North Carolina.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Not in either field guide

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1954)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Crumb (1956; as *Bleptina medialis*)

ID COMMENTS: The three species of *Bleptina* in our area are all very similar: small grayish Deltoids with males that have a somewhat concave costal margin. *Bleptina sangamonica* and *B. inferior* are both gray with a sinuous, non-contrasting subterminal line. *B. caradrinalis* is usually paler gray or brownish and has a pale, bent but otherwise even subterminal line. In *B. sangamonica*, the subterminal is fairly irregular and dentate, and filled with the same gray as the ground color; in some individuals it is too obscure to make out (Forbes, 1954; JBS, pers. obs.). The subterminal may also be obscure in *B. inferior*, but is often visible and filled with a brown shading; it is also less dentate than in *B. sangamonica*. Whereas *B. caradrinalis* is usually easy to recognize from photos, *B. sangamonica* and *B. inferior* are best identified through dissection of the males.

DISTRIBUTION: We have a few records from all three geographic provinces in the state.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Adults fly during the summer, but we have too few records to detect a definite flight pattern.

HABITAT: Our records all come from dry to xeric habitats, including Longleaf Pine sandhills in the Coastal Plain, rocky glades and dry woodlands in the Uwharries, and upland ridges in the Mountains.

FOOD: Hosts are apparently undocumented but larvae probably feed on dead leaves.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: Appears to come fairly well to blacklights, with multiple individuals being collected at least at a few sites.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GU S1S2

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

COMMENTS: This species appears to be quite rare in North Carolina, with numerous likely specimens having been dissected but almost always turning out to be *B. inferior*. The reasons for the apparent rarity of *B. sangamonica* are unknown, but it does seem to be a specialist on dry to xeric glades and woodlands. Except in areas like the Fall-line Sandhills, such habitats are usually very patchily distributed, and it may be loss of landscape connectivity as much as declines in the habitat quality at individual sites that explains the very sparse distribution of this species.