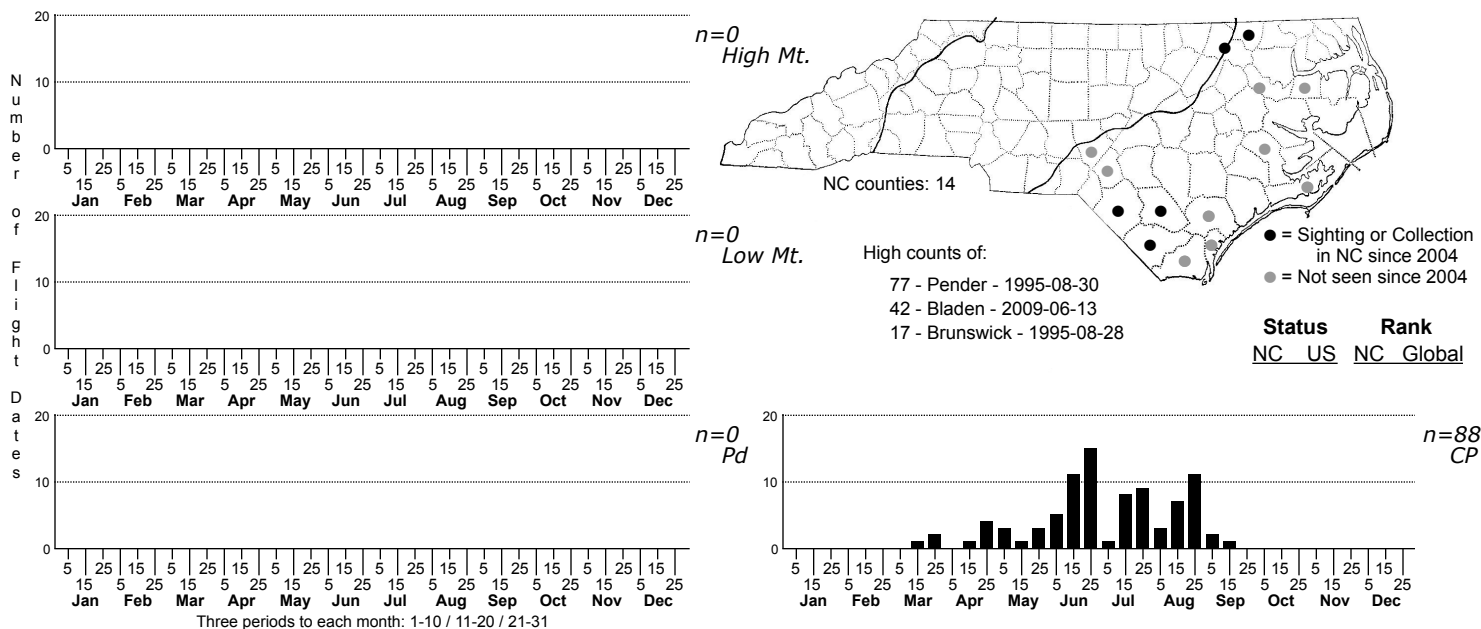


## *Cutina aluticolor* Brown Cutina



FAMILY: Erebidae SUBFAMILY: Erebinae TRIBE: Poaphilini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of four species in this genus that occur in North America north of Mexico (Lafontaine and Schmidt, 2010). All are restricted to the southeastern United States and have been recorded in North Carolina (Pogue and Ferguson, 1998).

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Pogue and Ferguson (1998)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: A medium-small, light brown Erebid. The ground color of the forewings is a fairly uniform light brown. Although Pogue and Ferguson (1998) state that both the basal and antemedian lines are absent, the photos they provide, along with most specimens illustrated on-line, show these lines to be black, fairly jagged, and sharply defined. The antemedian is slightly bordered with pale on the interior side, and as is the postmedian on the outer side, particularly at the costa. Spots are absent as is black shading, except a small amount at the tornus. Hindwings are light brown. *Cutina albopunctella* is similar in its fairly uniform ground color but lacks the white borders to its lines and often possesses a pale reniform spot. The forewings of *Cutina distincta* and *arcuata* are far less uniform, with prominent black patches and other contrasting markings.

DISTRIBUTION: Probably occurs throughout the Coastal Plain, including the Fall-line Sandhills.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Adult fly from mid-March to mid-September, with evidence for several peaks in activity.

HABITAT: Our records for this species come from riverine or lakeshore swamps. None come from non-riverine swamps or pond cypress savannas.

FOOD: Stenophagous, feeding on *Taxodium* species, probably mainly on Bald Cypress (*T. distichum*).

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: Comes well to blacklights; none of our records come from bait.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S4]

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

COMMENTS: This species is a strong host plant and habitat specialist, but on species and habitats that are still widespread in at least the outer third of the state. Several threats exist, however, including sea-level rise and salt-water intrusion along the Coast; draining and conversion of Carolina Bays and other cypress-savannas to agriculture and silviculture; and loss of deep swamp habitats due to timber harvest and creation of impoundments. Despite these threats, and past losses of habitat due to massive timber cutting in bottomland forests, this species currently appears to be relatively secure within the state.