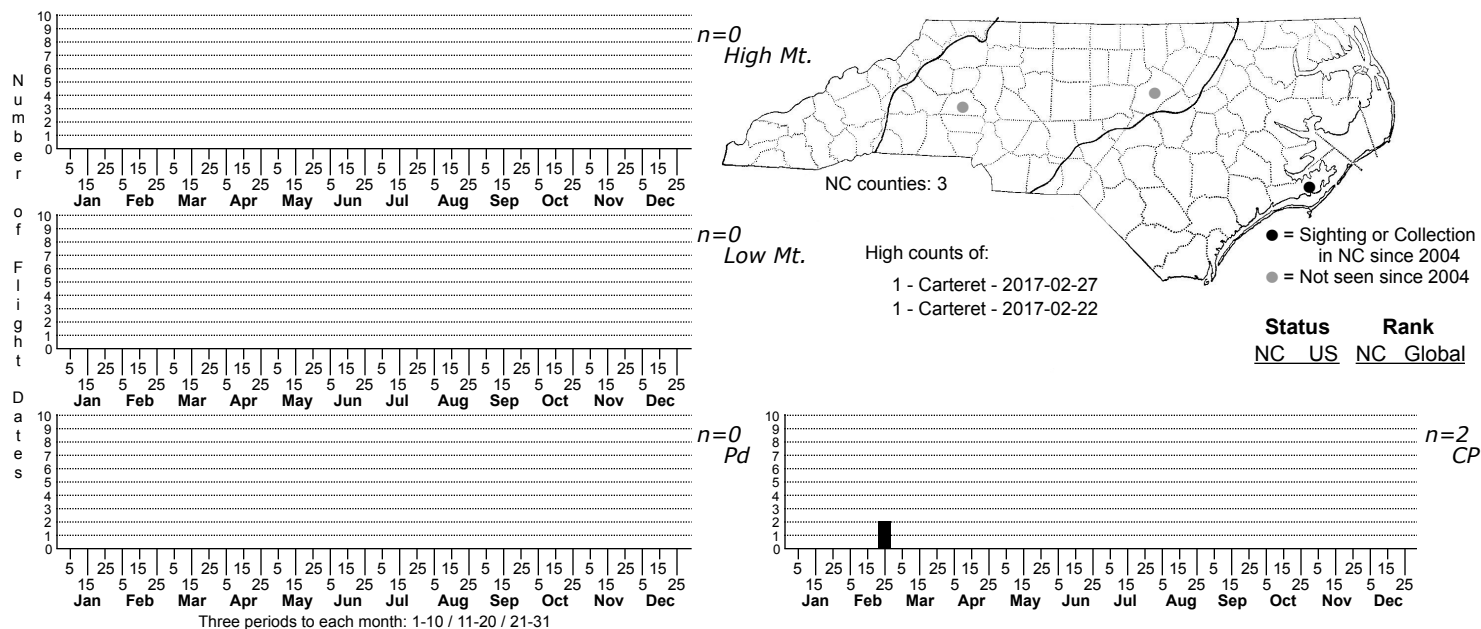


Ptichodis vinculum Black-tipped Ptichodis Moth



FAMILY: Erebiidae SUBFAMILY: Erebinae TRIBE: Euclidiini

TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: A wholly American genus containing 12 species from North and South America. As currently constructed the genus is polyphyletic and some species will eventually be moved elsewhere. There are 7 species found in North America and 3 in North Carolina.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1954)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: Somewhat larger and grayer than *Ptichodis herbarum*, but otherwise similar in its possession of strongly contrasting antemedian and postmedian lines, both of which are yellow on the basal side and outwardly edged with dark brown. *P. vinculum* can be easily distinguished from *herbarum*, however, by its dark apical patch, which is completely missing in *herbarum* and *bistrigata*. Males of *vinculum* also lack the dark spot present in the basal area at the inner margin that is characteristic of *herbarum*.

DISTRIBUTION: Two historic records come from the Piedmont but our only recent records come from a barrier island.

FLIGHT COMMENT: In Florida (Heppner, 2003) indicates the species occurs in December and January, which is consistent with our observations, but on Moth Photography Group website there are records given for Florida for virtually all months. Because of confusion with other species, the actual flight period is uncertain.

HABITAT: The Piedmont habitats where this species was historically recorded are unknown. Both of our recent specimens were collected in a strip of maritime forest.

FOOD: Unknown, but according to Wagner et al.(2011), most members of this tribe feed on grasses and/or legumes rather than on woody species.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: Taken in light traps; response to bait is unknown.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G4 [SU]

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

COMMENTS: We have too few records for this species to be certain about its residency status. Both of the recent records come from a site that had been well surveyed in the past but without this species having been discovered. Similar or even more extensive stands of maritime forest have also been sampled elsewhere along the coast with similar lack of results. On the other hand, both a male and female were found just a few days apart in the same stand in 2017, suggesting that there could be an established population at that site. Re-sampling that site in the coming years will be necessary to establish that fact, however, or the discovery of larvae at that site. If this species is determined to be a true resident of the state, then its status will likely need to be upgraded to Significantly Rare.