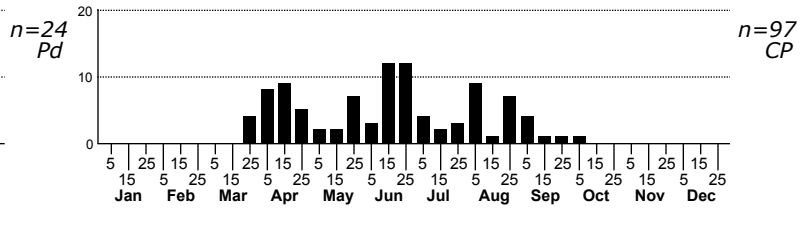
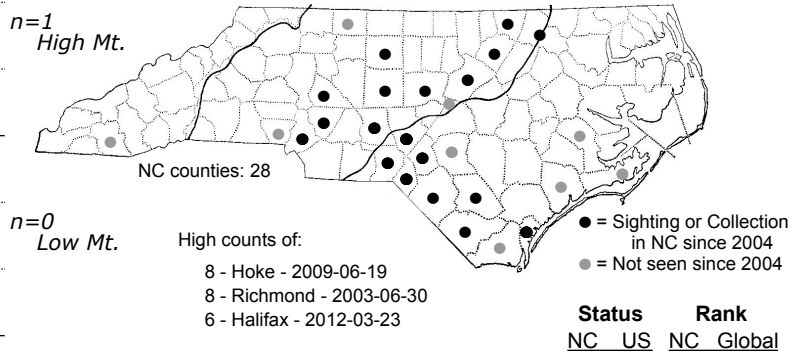
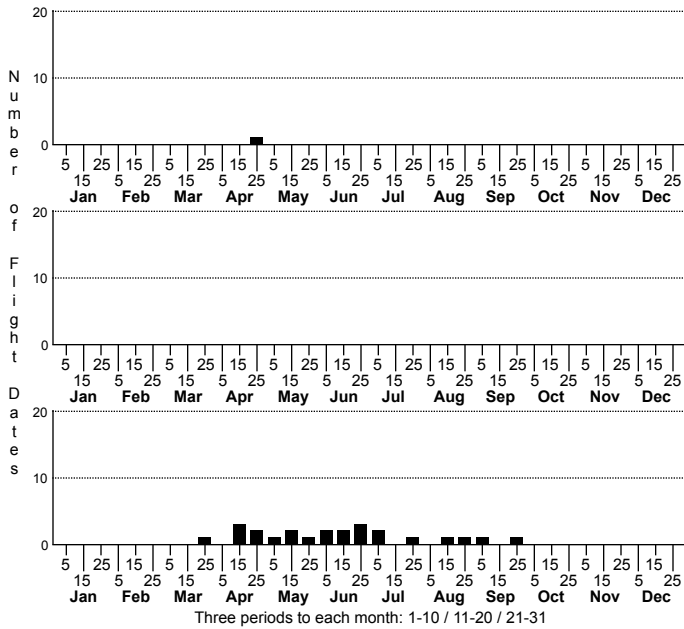


Ptichodis herbarum Common Ptichodis Moth



FAMILY: Erebidae 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: Forbes (1954); Crumb (1955); Wagner et al. (2011)

ID COMMENTS: Similar in size and pattern to *Ptichodis bistrigata* and *vinculum*; all three species possess strongly contrasting yellow and dark antemedian and postmedian lines. Male herbarum are easily distinguished from the other two by their possession of a dark spot located in the basal area just in front of the antemedian line near the inner margin. Both sexes of *vinculum* can also be easily distinguished by their possession of a dark apical spot that is not present in herbarum or *bistrigata*. Females of herbarum are likely to be confused only with *P. bistrigata*, but can be identified by the placement of the yellow and black lines making a wedge in the middle of the wing. In *P. bistrigata* the inner lines (facing each other) are both black. In *P. herbarum* one is black, the other yellow.

DISTRIBUTION: Found throughout much of the state though rarely common. Particularly uncommon to rare in the western Piedmont and Mountains.

FLIGHT COMMENT: In the Coastal Plain and eastern Piedmont there appear to be three flight periods.

HABITAT: Records from the Coastal Plain come from both xeric sites, such as barrier islands and sand ridges, and wet-to-mesic sites, such as bottomland, swamp, and other riparian habitats; we have no records from pure peatland habitats, however. In the Piedmont and Mountains, records also come from both upland and lowland habitats. Records also appear to be divided between forest habitats and those that are either naturally or artificially open.

FOOD: Reared by Franclemont on Bush Clover (*Lespedeza* spp.) (see Forbes, 1954; Crumb, 1955), although there do not appear to be any other host plant records (Wagner et al., 2011). According to Wagner et al., members of this tribe (Euclidiini) typically feed on either grasses or legumes (or both).

OBSERVATION_METHODS: Adults have been recorded in light traps and likely are attracted to bait but we have no specific records. Occasionally flushed from vegetation.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G4 [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 uncommon but possibly occurs throughout the state, at least at lower elevations, and occupies a wide range of habitats. Consequently, it appears to be secure within the state.