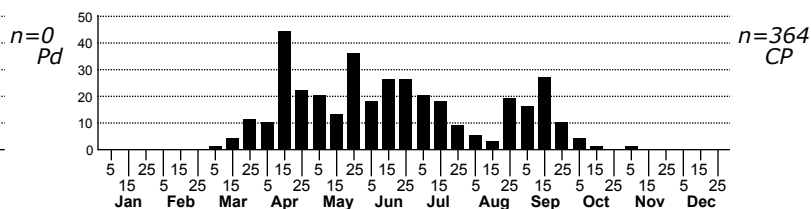
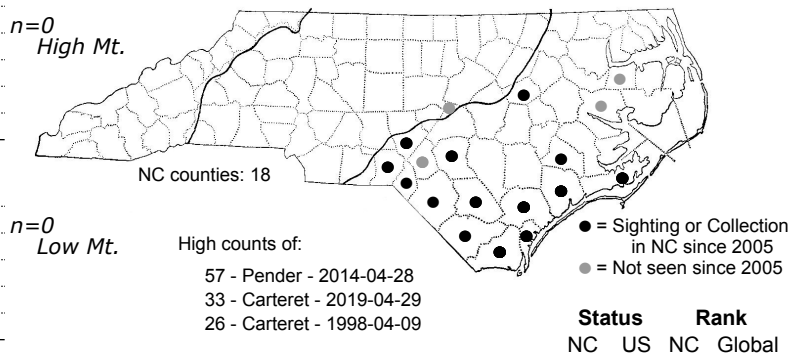
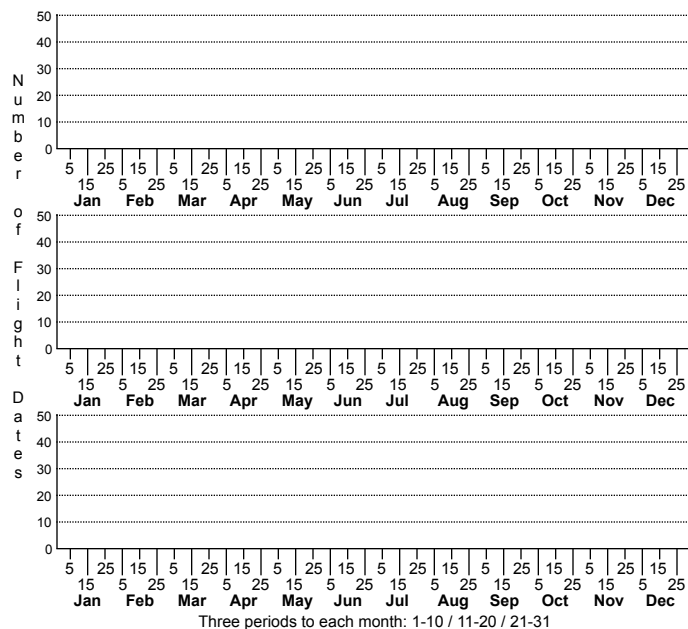


Argyrostromis deleta Ruined Chocolate Moth



FAMILY: Erebiidae SUBFAMILY: Erebinae TRIBE: Poaphilini

TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: One of six species in this genus, all of which occur in central and eastern North America, including North Carolina (Sullivan and Lafontaine, 2011).

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The antennae are often white, at least in fresh specimens. The ground color of the forewings is dark brown. The antemedial and postmedial lines are usually visible and are darker brown than the ground color and often shaded with a narrow band of ochre, sometimes basally in the case of the antemedial line and outwardly in the postmedial. Both lines are irregular but not as strongly toothed as in *A. erasa*. A subterminal line can also be sometimes distinguished but is often just a division between a darker postmedial shade and a somewhat paler subterminal shade. A dark orbicular spot is sometimes present. The fringe of the forewing is gray to pale brown to blackish but usually not the contrasting white found in *A. erasa*. The subterminal area of the wing is usually darker than the postmedial area in *A. erasa*, with the opposite true for *A. deleta*.

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: Pocosins, Wet Pine Savannas and Flatwoods, margins of depression ponds, blackwater swamps, and other wet, shrubby habitats in the Coastal Plain.

FOOD: Host plants have not been observed but are likely to be species of shrub associated with Coastal Plain wetlands.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: Easily observed during the day when flushed from savanna and pocosin habitats. Comes well to blacklights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G4G5 SNR [S4]

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

COMMENTS: