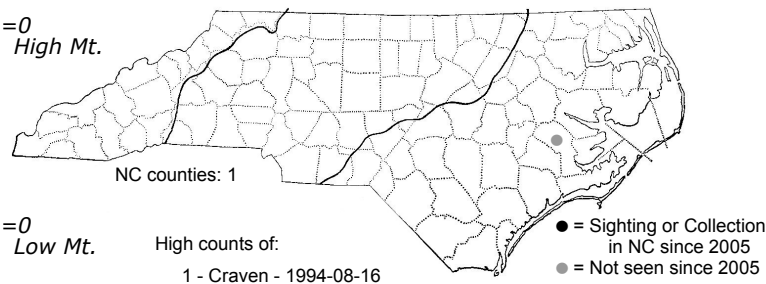
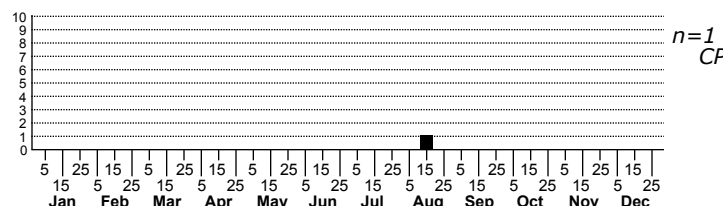


Ponometia exigua Bicolored Bird-dropping Moth



Status Rank
NC US NC Global



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Acontiinae TRIBE: Acontiini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of 34 species in this genus that occur in North America north of Mexico (Lafontaine and Schmidt, 2010), six of which have been recorded in North Carolina

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Poole (2016)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: A medium-small, dimorphically-colored Acontiine. The head, thorax, and ground color of the forewings is orange-brown in the male

DISTRIBUTION: Recorded in the southern half of the Outer Coastal Plain in North Carolina

FLIGHT COMMENT: Our one record comes from August

HABITAT: Habitats used in North Carolina -- if it is in fact resident in the state -- are unclear.

FOOD: Host plants are poorly documented. Beadle & Leckie (2018) list American Burnweed (*Erechtites hieraciifolia*), but Poole (2016) reports that larval hosts are unknown.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: Collected at lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR SNR [SNA]

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

COMMENTS: This is primarily a Neotropical species and may be only a rare stray in North Carolina. Its residency status needs to be determined before it is placed even on the Watch List.