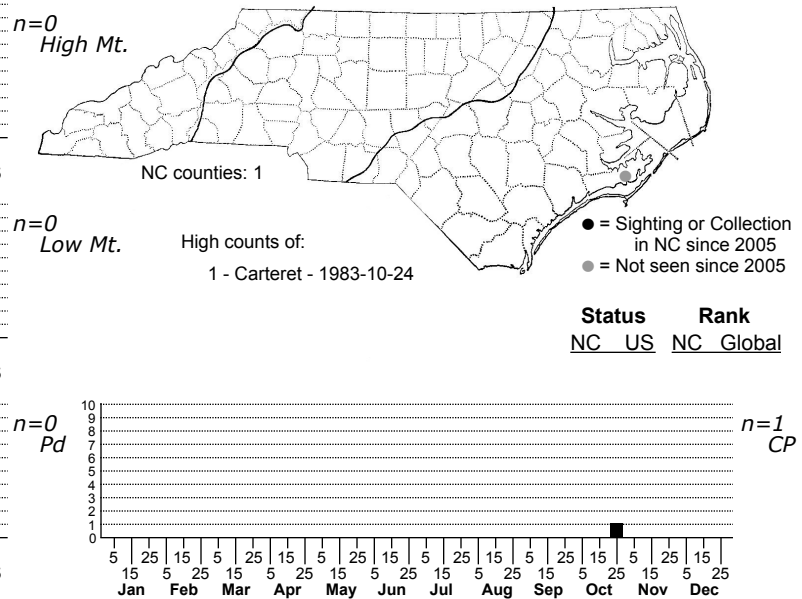
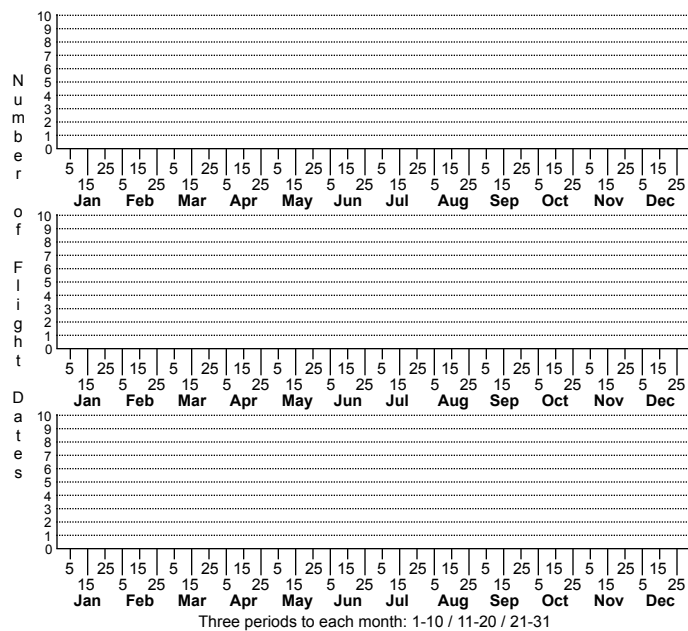


*Meropleon cinnamicolor* None



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Noctuinae TRIBE: Apameini

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

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Ferguson (1982)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: A medium-large Noctuid. Body and forewings are colored bright reddish-cinnamon, with the wings lacking almost all markings except for a pale streak along the cubital vein and a series of dark points on the veins in the subterminal area (Ferguson, 1982). Hindwings are light brown. *Meropleon cosmion* is similar in appearance but has a conspicuous, white orbicular (Ferguson, 1982). In the Midwest, *M. lineae* is also very similar but even more unicolorous, lacking the white streak found in *cinnamicolor* (Metlevski, 2005).

DISTRIBUTION: Restricted to the southern half of the Outer Coastal Plain, where it probably occurs only in marshes in the Tidewater zone.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Probably univoltine, with adults flying in the fall.

HABITAT: All records, including those from North Carolina, come from coastal marshes.

FOOD: Larval hosts are unknown, but likely to be some large species of marsh grass.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: Comes to blacklights, but to what extent is unknown.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GU SH

STATE PROTECTION: Listed as Significantly Rare by the Natural Heritage Program. That designation, however, does not confer any legal protection, although permits are required to collect it on state parks and other public lands.

COMMENTS: This species is known only from specimens collected at the type locality in South Carolina and from a single site in North Carolina (Metlevski, 2005). Although that distribution would seem to merit a high global rank, there are apparently questions about why a species associated with such seemingly common and extensive habitats -- coastal marshlands -- would be so localized; the late flight period and lack of intensive moth sampling from these habitats provide some support for that argument. For the time being, however, this species appears to be one of the rarest moths in North America, although more information is certainly needed on its host plant relationships or any other factor that might be limiting its distribution (e.g., burning of marshes, as suggested by Schweitzer et al., 2011).