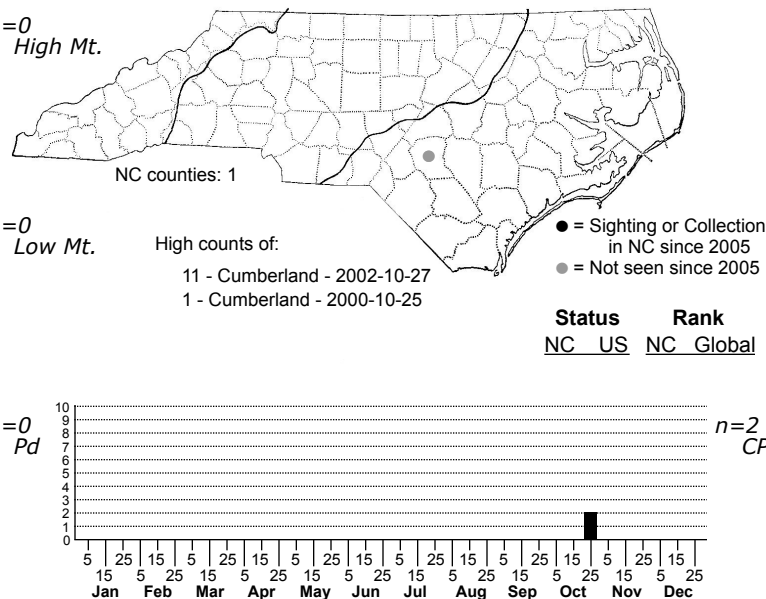


## *Lemmeria digitalis* Fingered Lemmeria



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Noctuinae TRIBE: Apameini

TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS: The sole member of this genus, which is confined to eastern North America

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1954)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: A small brown Noctuid with a distinctive trapezoidal median area on the forewings that is darker than the basal and terminal areas and bounded by nearly straight, contrastingly pale yellow antemedian and postmedian lines, which converge towards the inner margin. An elongated reniform, outlined in dark orange or yellow and often with a dark spot at the base, is located in the center of the median area; a series of vague, dark spots or dashes are present along the veins in the subterminal area. The hindwings are dark gray. Although not mentioned by Forbes (1954), our specimens show a sexual difference in coloration: males are a darker, maroon to reddish brown and females are tan to orange-brown.

DISTRIBUTION: Recorded in North Carolina at only a single site in the Fall-line Sandhills

FLIGHT COMMENT: Has a single adult flight, with all North Carolina records coming from the end of October

HABITAT: The sole known North Carolina population is associated with a shallow, mucky impoundment dominated by sedges and wetland grasses. Mitchell's Sedge (*Carex mitchelliana*) is the most abundant herbaceous species at this site, but several other species of *Carex* are also common. Rings et al. (1992) report that it is also found in wet or boggy areas in Ohio.

FOOD: Hosts are apparently unknown (Rings et al., 1996) but larvae are possibly borers in sedges (D.F. Schweitzer, pers. comm.).

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: Appears to come well to blacklights. The proboscis is rudimentary (Forbes, 1954), so adults do not come to either bait or flowers.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G4 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 primarily a northern and mid-western species, although there are records as far south as Florida (e. g., Kimball, 1965). It appears to be uncommon to rare, or at least poorly known in several states within its range (NatureServe Explorer, 2016). In North Carolina, this species co-occurs with the federally Endangered Saint Francis's Satyr (*Neonympha mitchellii francisci*), and like that species it may be a relict member of beaver-pond sedge meadows, a habitat type that was once widespread over much of the continent but greatly reduced by the near extirpation of beavers at the beginning of the 20th Century. The relatively late season flight period, however, may also account for at least a part of its apparent rarity and more surveys need to be conducted in marsh and sedge meadow habitats in late October and early November in order to clarify its status. Currently, this species is known from only a single site in Fort Bragg.