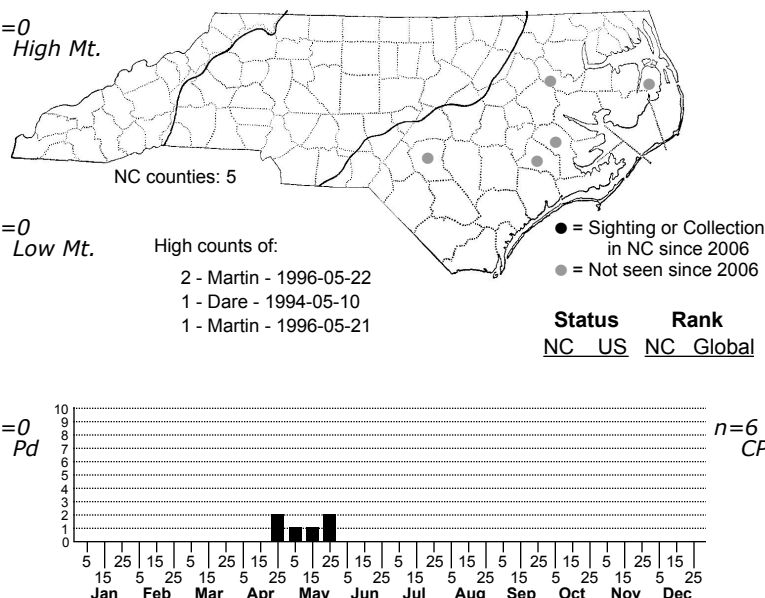


# *Loscopia roblei* None



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Noctuinae TRIBE: Apameini

TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS: This is one of two species in this genus that occur in North America (Mikkola et al., 2009), both of which have been recorded in North Carolina. A third species occurs in Eurasia.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Quinter and Lafontaine (2009)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Quinter and Lafontaine (2009)

ID COMMENTS: This is a medium-sized noctuid that has two different color forms. The more recognizable form has a pale yellowish-tan ground color on the forewing with a strongly contrasting black basal dash, a black spot in the lower reniform, and black streaks in the subterminal area. The basal dash is also somewhat forked at its distal end. The second form has a reddish-brown ground color with the same markings as in the pale form, but that are less contrasting and more muted (Quinter and Lafontaine, 2009). The hindwing is mottled with dark fuscous. It is uniformly colored in some individuals, but paler toward the wing base and pale near outer margin toward the anal angle in others. The discal spot is elongated and slightly darker than the ground color. The terminal line is dark fuscous and the fringe buff.

DISTRIBUTION: *Loscopia roblei* has a narrow range that extends from the Great Dismal Swamp in southeastern Virginia southward through much of eastern North Carolina, and appears to be restricted to the Coastal Plain. Most of our records are from the Outer Coastal Plain, but populations also are present in the Fall-line Sandhills.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Local populations appear to be univoltine, with adults flying from late April to late May.

HABITAT: *Loscopia roblei* occupies a wide range of cane-containing habitats, including peatland canebrakes, riverine canebrakes, and streamhead canebrakes in the Fall-line Sandhills. In all these cases, we use the term "canebrake" to refer to extensive patches of cane forming near monocultures, but under closed or open canopy forests (in the Classification of the Natural Communities of North Carolina, Schafale and Weakley, 1990, and as revised in 2012, the term "canebrake" is restricted to pure stands of cane lacking a canopy of trees).

FOOD: The host plants have not been confirmed, but the species shows a strong association with canebrakes (Quinter and Lafontaine, 2009; Mikkola et al., 2009). This species may feed on grasses or other hosts associated with canebrakes, and much remains to be learned about its feeding biology. Based on larval morphology, Quinter and Lafontaine (2009) surmised that the larva feeds as either a subterranean cutworm, or perhaps a nocturnal-feeding climbing cutworm that burrows into the soil and hides during the day.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: The adults come at least to some extent to blacklights, but Quinter reports that many of the cane species can be most easily found by direct search of canebrakes at night, looking for individuals perched on the cane. The host of this species has not been discovered, so we recommend searching cane or other associated grasses at night for the foraging larvae.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G3G4 S2S3

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 is a rarely collected species with a highly restricted range (Quinter and Lafontaine, 2009). As a species that is nearly endemic to North Carolina, it merits a high degree of conservation attention in this state. Before an accurate assessment can be made of specific conservation needs, more needs to be learned about its host plant relationships and the reasons for its scarcity. Its preferred habitats, at least, do not appear to be particularly limited.