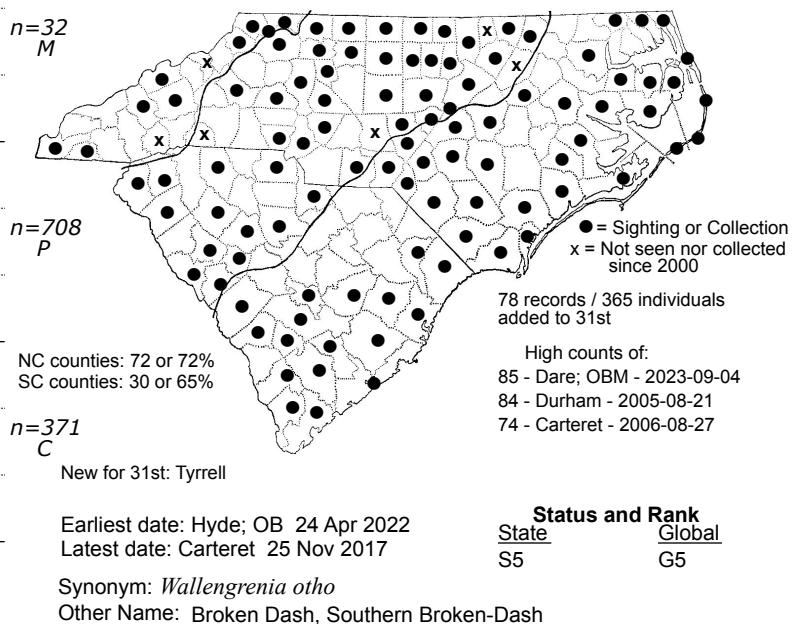
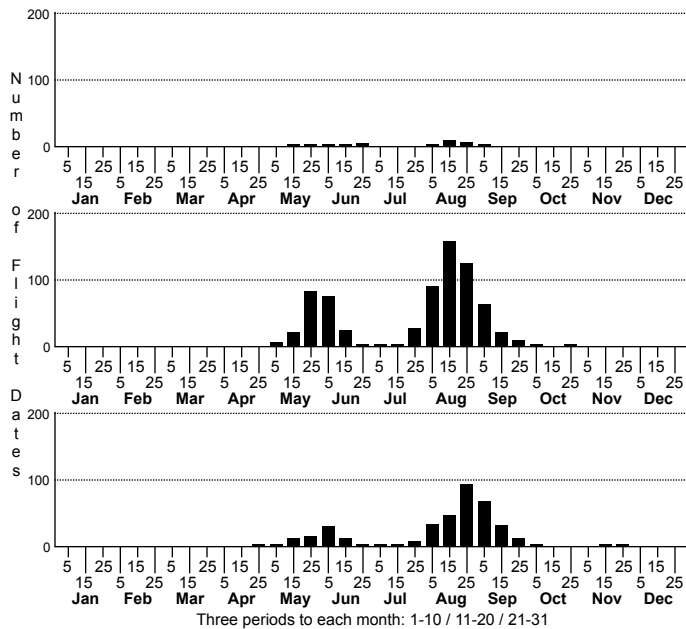


## Southern Broken-dash *Polites otho*



**DISTRIBUTION:** Essentially throughout the Coastal Plain and Piedmont; scattered in the Mountains. Possibly absent in some Mountain counties, though likely present in all counties downstate. The lack of records for some of the middle Coastal Plain is certainly due to poor coverage in this region.

**ABUNDANCE:** Fairly common over most of the Coastal Plain. Uncommon to locally fairly common in the eastern half of the Piedmont, rare to uncommon in the western Piedmont, and very rare in the Mountains. In the Mountains, probably absent above 3500 feet.

**FLIGHT PERIOD:** Two broods; downstate -- mid-May to mid-June, and mid- or late July to late September, very rarely to early October. The records from the Mountains suggest flight periods from mid-May to late June, and early August to early September; but many more records are needed to be certain, especially for the second brood.

**HABITAT:** The species has a tendency to occur in or near wetlands, but not in truly wet places. Typical habitats are the edges of bottomlands or pocosins, marsh borders, moist powerline clearings, and particularly savannas. It can be seen in drier places, but it is not to be intentionally searched for in uplands. In fact, it can be locally numerous in some gardens/arboretums, as long as the foodplants are nearby. Interestingly, the state's highest count (85) was made at a lawn on Bodie Island, the individuals nectaring on Sneezeweed (*Helenium amarum*)!

**FOOD AND NECTAR PLANTS:** Various crowgrasses (*Paspalum* spp.) are the foodplants. The species nectars on many plants, such as forbs growing in savannas -- blazing-stars (*Liatris* spp.), etc. Individuals even visit gardens and nurseries, such as the Raulston Arboretum in Raleigh and the Sarah Duke Gardens in Durham.

**COMMENTS:** This is a widespread, though seldom very numerous, species of damp places in the Coastal Plain and lower Piedmont. Savannas are the best places to look for them, but I have seen them on a number of occasions along powerline clearings where the ground is damp. Though similar in pattern to the Northern Broken-dash, I have seldom had trouble distinguishing the two (unless they are very worn), as the Southern Broken-dash has a rich or warm rusty color, as opposed to a cold or dull brown of the Northern Broken-dash.