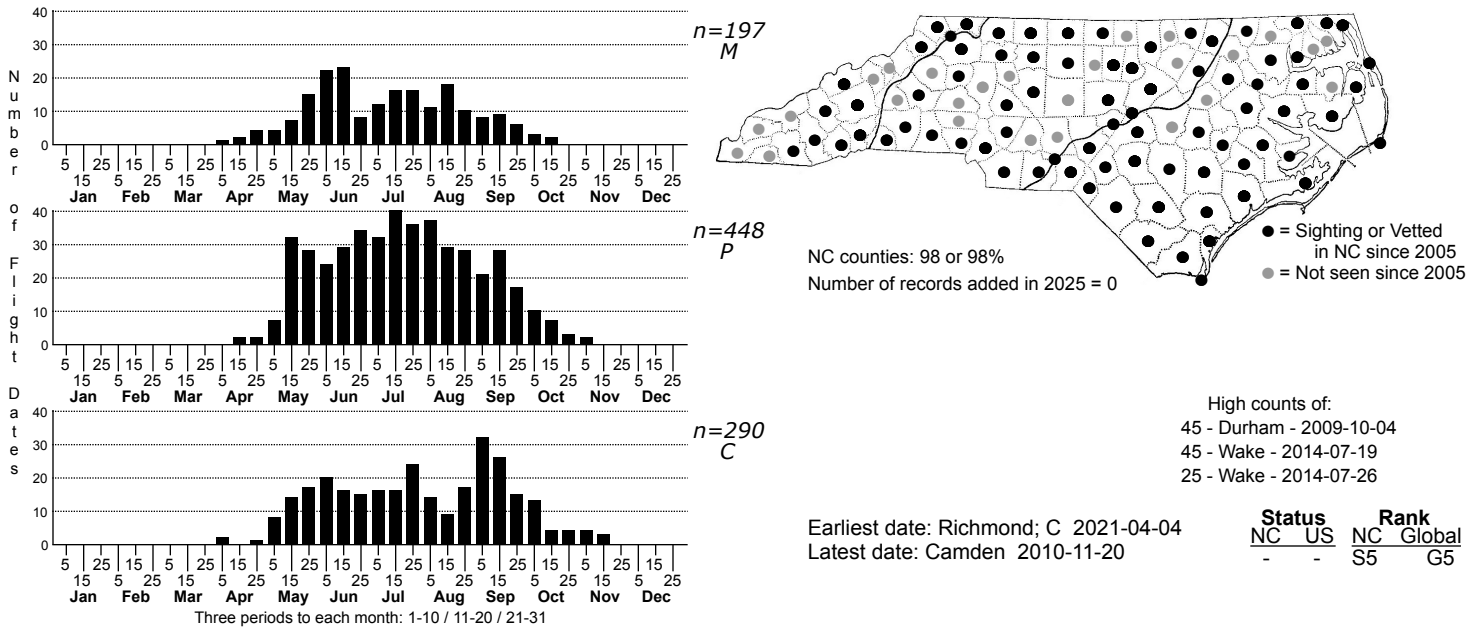


Tramea lacerata Black Saddlebags



DISTRIBUTION: Essentially statewide, with only two widely scattered counties lacking records. Certainly present in all 100 counties.

ABUNDANCE: Reasonably common across the state, with abundance seemingly quite similar in each province. Statewide abundance is slightly less than that of the Carolina Saddlebags, but there are many more records of the Black Saddlebags for the mountains than there are for the Carolina Saddlebags. (The Carolina outnumbers the Black in the Coastal Plain.)

FLIGHT: In the Coastal Plain, it ranges from early April (scarce before mid-May) to mid-November. The Piedmont flight is from late April to early November; the mountain flight is from mid-April to mid-October, but it is scarce in the spring.

HABITAT: Ponds, lakes, marshes, and other still water in open places.

BEHAVIOR: Essentially the same as for Carolina Saddlebags. Usually seen in flight -- gliding or slowly flapping -- about 8-15 feet above ground, seldom coming to a perch.

COMMENTS: If one were not aware that Black Saddlebags and Carolina Saddlebags were different species, an observer might think that Blacks are females of Carolinas, as the two species tend to be the same size, often fly together, and are similar in abundance. Exactly what micro-habitat, food items, etc., differentiate these two is not obvious. As with the Carolina, some individuals along the coast are probably migrants, but it is not nearly as numerous a fall migrant along the coast as is the Carolina.