

Hetaerina titia Smoky Rubyspot

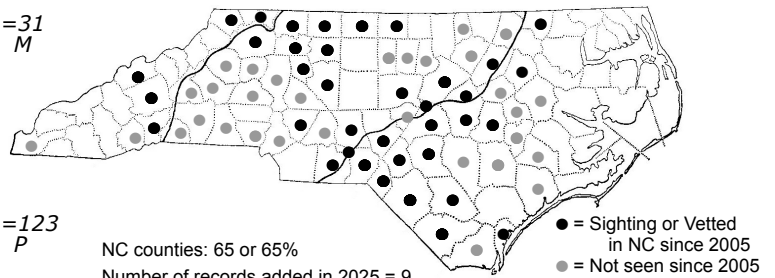
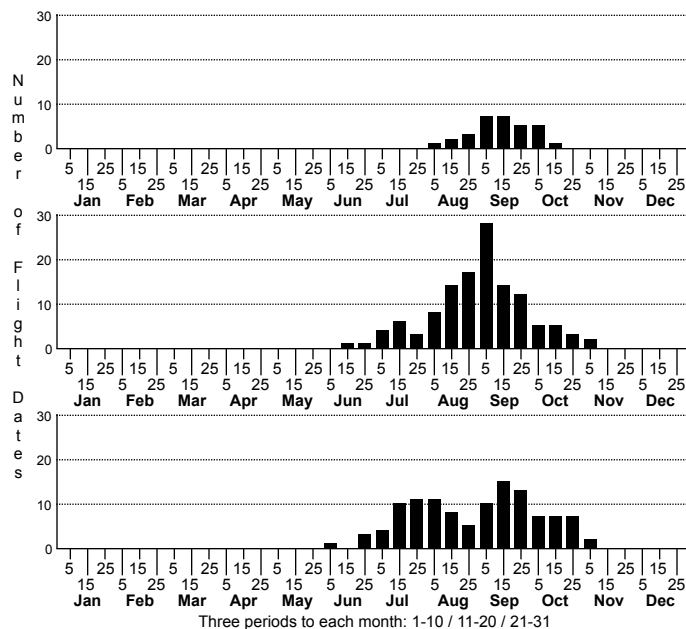


Photo (vetted) in 2025: Alleghany

High counts of:
123 - Wilkes; P - 2018-09-22
100 - Robeson - 2016-08-27
100 - Columbus - 2016-08-27

Earliest date: New Hanover 2015-06-04
Latest date: Harnett; P 2022-11-06

Status		Rank	
NC	US	NC	Global
-	-	S5	G5

DISTRIBUTION: Present essentially throughout the Piedmont and the southern and western Coastal Plain; apparently absent from the eastern third of the Coastal Plain. Scattered across the length of the mountains, but with several large gaps in the range. No records yet east of Northampton, Pitt, and Onslow counties. Records only for 1/3rd of the mountain counties, but likely present in all 17 counties there, as the distribution covers counties from the VA state line to the GA state line.

ABUNDANCE: Uncommon over its range in the state. Locally fairly common to common at a few sites in the western Coastal Plain/Sandhills and eastern and northwestern Piedmont. Absent in the eastern Coastal Plain.

FLIGHT: Mid-June to early November in the Piedmont and Coastal Plain. The mountain records are fairly late in the season -- early August to mid-October.

HABITAT: Rivers and larger streams, typically where the current is slow to moderate flowing. Apparently at larger rivers and slower-flowing waters than is the American Rubyspot, though the habitats overlap, and both can occur along the same stream or river.

BEHAVIOR: This species is more wary than is the American Rubyspot, making photography or close observation of one more challenging.

COMMENTS: This species is somewhat similar to the American Rubyspot in appearance and habitats, often perching on rocks next to the creeks or rivers -- usually a few feet or more away from an observer; you may need binoculars or a telephoto lens to tell the species apart. The locations of the highest counts are oddly scattered in the state -- one in the northwestern Piedmont and two others in the southern Coastal Plain. The absence or scarcity of recent records for the southwestern Piedmont is odd and somewhat disturbing.