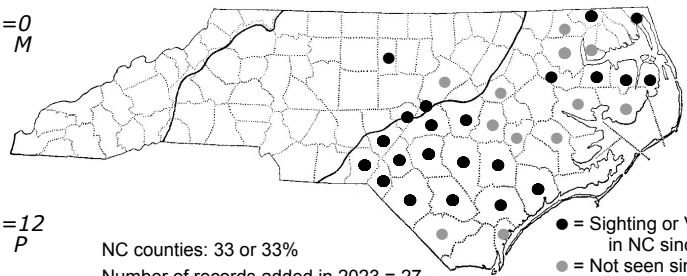
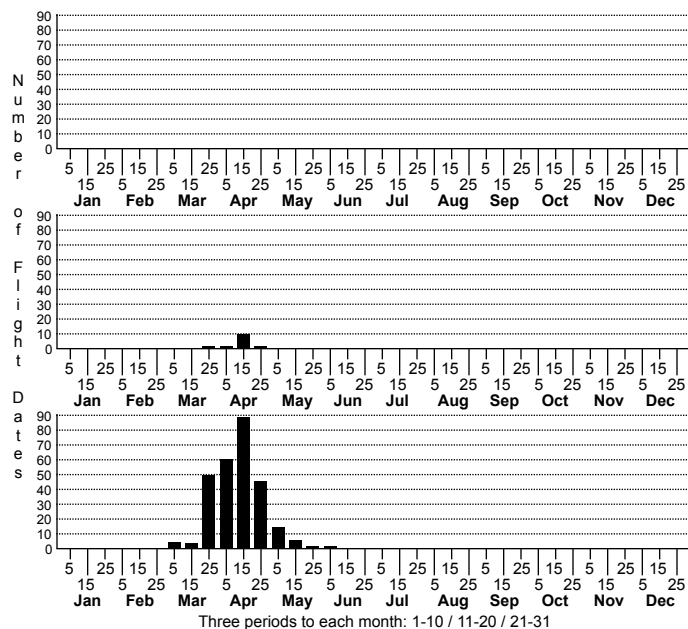


## *Epitheca semiaquea* Mantled Baskettail



NC counties: 33 or 33%

Number of records added in 2023 = 27

Sight (not vetted) in 2024: Alamance

High counts of:

200 - Dare; Mainland - 2018-04-28

50 - Bladen - 2021-03-29

35 - Moore; C - 2005-04-17

Earliest date: Bladen 2023-03-04

Latest date: Tyrrell 1959-06-06

| Status |    | Rank |        |
|--------|----|------|--------|
| NC     | US | NC   | Global |
| -      | -  | S5   | G5     |

**DISTRIBUTION:** Essentially only the Coastal Plain in NC, though it barely extends above the Fall Line from Wake and Chatham counties southward. Ranges inland only to Wake, Chatham, Moore, and Richmond counties.

**ABUNDANCE:** Fairly common to locally common in the Sandhills and the adjacent southern Coastal Plain; less common farther eastward and northeastward (e.g., no record yet for Brunswick County), but still at least fairly common locally, though probably rare in the extreme northeastern Coastal Plain. Rare in the narrow Piedmont part of the range. Can occur in swarms, with over 20 individuals seen in a day in some sites; a remarkable estimate of 200 individuals was made on the mainland portion of Dare County in 2018.

**FLIGHT:** Spring season only; late March to mid-May, rarely to early June. The few Piedmont records end in late April, though it certainly flies there for a few more weeks. By far most numerous in April than at other times.

**HABITAT:** Lakes, ponds, and pools. Seems to be more numerous where these waters are acidic, such as in pocosin habitats to include Carolina bay lakes and ponds.

**BEHAVIOR:** Males are less often seen in patrols over water than are Common Baskettails. Adults are typically seen, along with many Common Baskettails, flying along dirt roads and other clearings, frequently stopping to perch obliquely on twigs and other vegetation close to the ground.

**COMMENTS:** The amount of dark brown or black on the hindwings is somewhat variable, and many Common Baskettails also show some dark pigment on the hindwings. However, Mantleds are the smallest baskettails and can often be identified by their small size while seen on the wing.