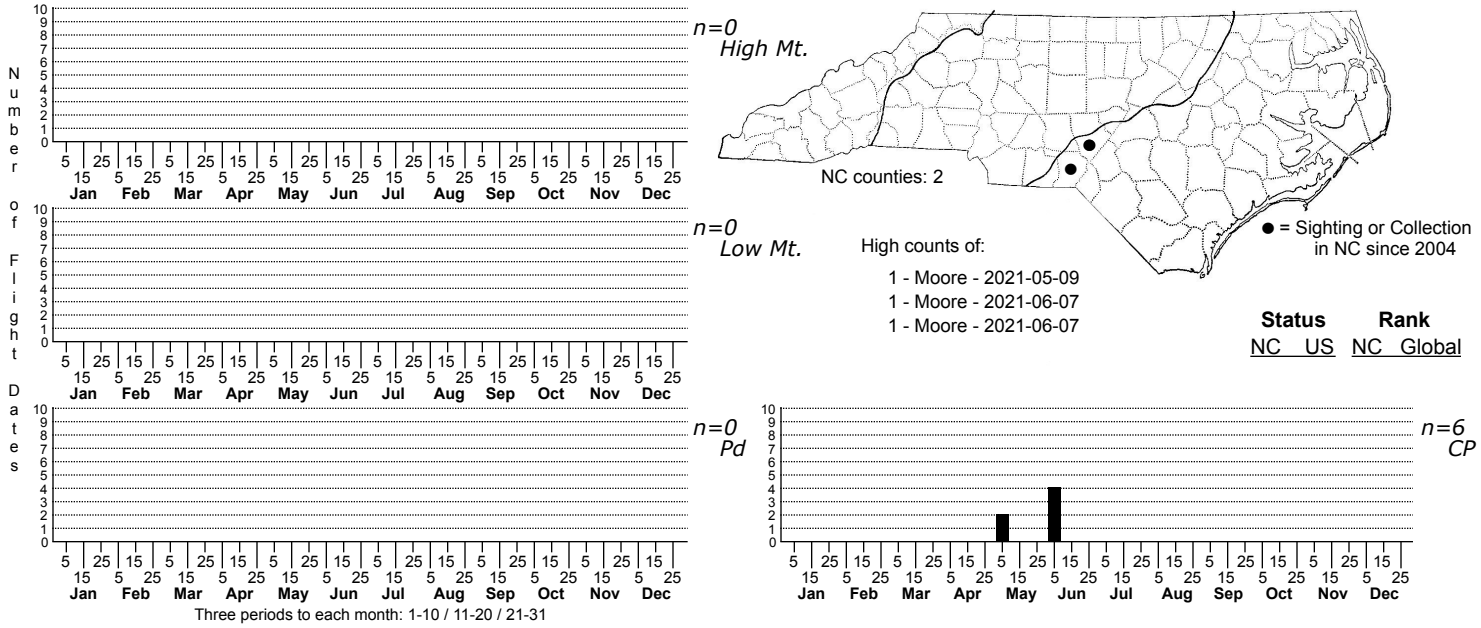
Neohelvibotys polingi No common name



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Pyraustinae TRIBE:
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:
ONLINE PHOTOS:
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Capps (1967)
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: This species exhibits markings that are indistinguishable from those of Neohelvibotys neohelvialis and genitalia are required for identification. The forewing is yellowish buff with darker brown to reddish-brown markings. The antemedial and postmedial lines are distinct and there is a small orbicular dot and reniform bar. The postmedial line is smoothly bowed outward from the costa, then projects obliquely to the inner margin. An even, dark, diffuse band is present along the termen. The hindwing is paler and has a relatively straight postmedial line that is incomplete. A dark, diffuse band is also present along the termen that is similar to the one on the forewing. Neohelvibotys polingi appears to be limited to the Sandhills in North Carolina, while N. neohelvialis is more widely distributed in the Coastal Plain and Piedmont. If this trend is verified with additional sampling, it may be possible to identify many specimensof the latter based on the collection site.

DISTRIBUTION: The documented range includes all of Florida, central Texas, Oklahoma, and the Sandhills of North Carolina, where we have only two site records as of 2023. There is also one record from Mexico.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults fly from April through October in different areas of the range. As of 2023, we have only six records that range from early May through early June.

HABITAT: Our records are all from xeric pine communities in the Sandhills.

FOOD: The host plants are unknown.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR[S1-S2]

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: Our two Sandhills site records as of 2023 appear to constitute a major disjunct group from the nearest known populations in Florida.