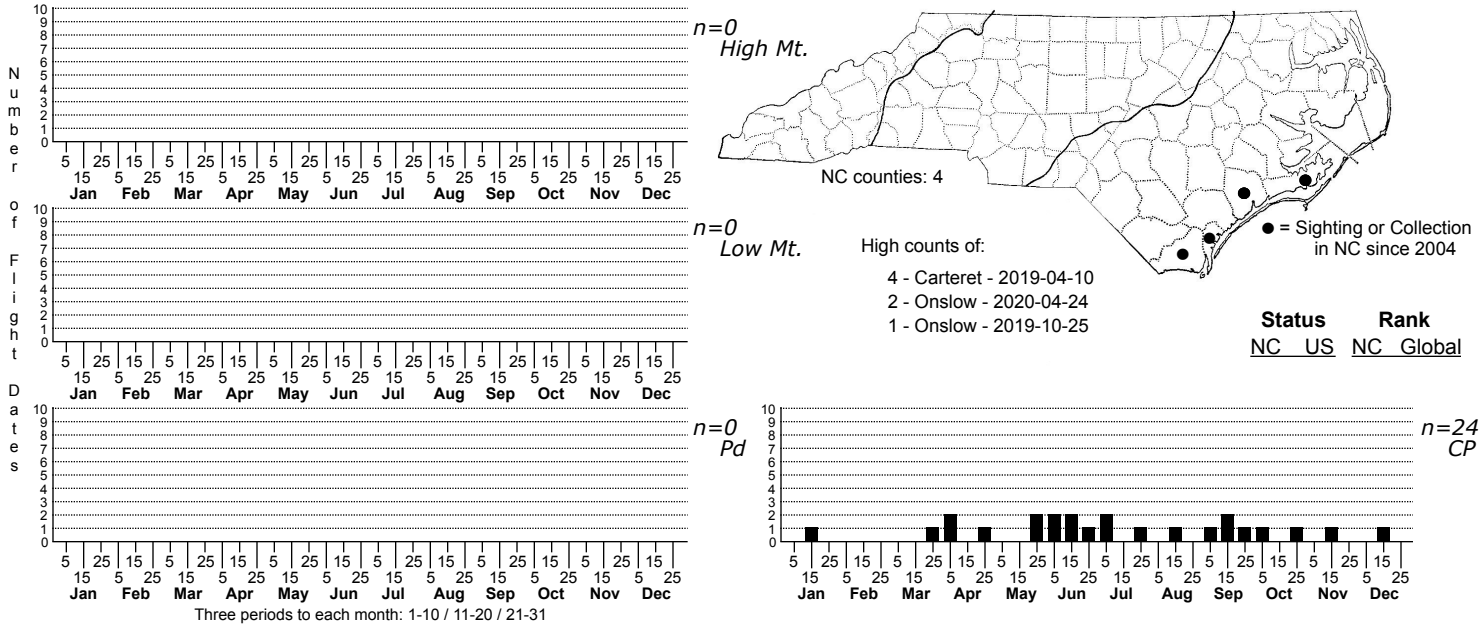
Oenobotys vinotinctalis Wine-tinted Oenobotys Moth



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Pyraustinae TRIBE: Pyraustini
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:
ONLINE PHOTOS:
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Munroe (1976)
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: This is a small moth with prominent palps that project forward. It has a broad forewing and arched costa that are most commonly pinkish-red, brownish-red or purplish brown. The antemedial and postmedial lines are blackish, and there are often two diffuse black spots below the inner margin that contact both lines. A blackish reniform spot is present that is slightly curved and bar-shaped. The postmedial line is curved outward on the costal three-fifths, then runs parallel to the inner margin before sharply angling to connect perpendicularly to the inner margin. The fringe is either slightly paler or the same color as the ground. The hindwing is variable in color, but usually fuscous, with the fringe similar to that of the forewing.

DISTRIBUTION: Oenobotys vinotinctalis is found in the southeastern U.S. from central Texas eastward along the Gulf Coast to all of Florida, then northward along the Atlantic Coast to North Carolina, with one isolated record from Maryland. Munroe (1976) reported that this species ranges southward through the West Indies and Mexico to Central and South America, however BOLD data suggests that populations in central and South America may represent a cryptic species. As of 2023, all of our records are from coastal counties in the southeastern corner of the state.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults fly year-round in Florida and from March through November in southern Alabama. As of 2023, we have records from late-March through December and January. Local populations in North Carolina appear to be multivoltine.

HABITAT: Our records all come from the Tidewater, most from the mainland and one from a barrier island. The exact habitats that are used within this area are poorly known.

FOOD: Larvae have been reported to feed on a species of Eupatorium in Florida (Heppner, 2007), but we are unaware of any additional confirmation of this.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S1S3

STATE PROTECTION: Has no legal protection, although permits are required to collect it on state parks and other public lands.

COMMENTS: This species reaches its northern limit in the southeastern corner of the state where it is scarce, but sometimes locally common. We need additional information on its habitat preferences and feeding ecology before we can accurately assess its conservation status.