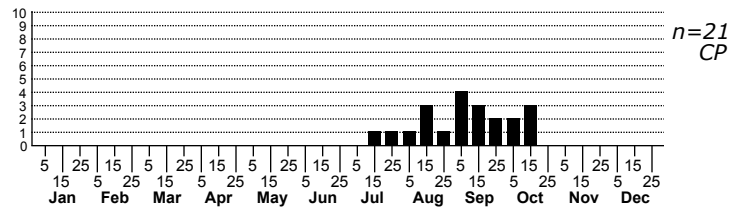
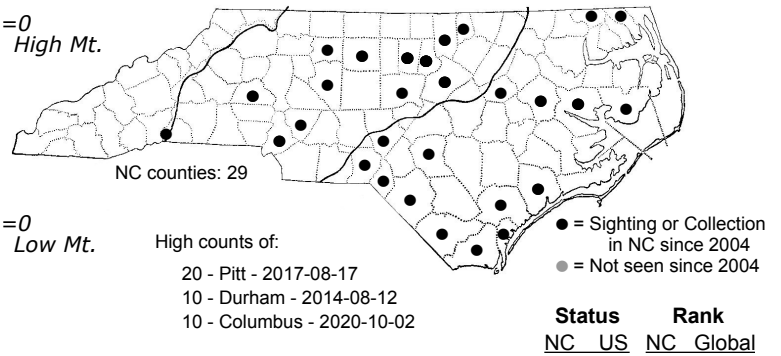
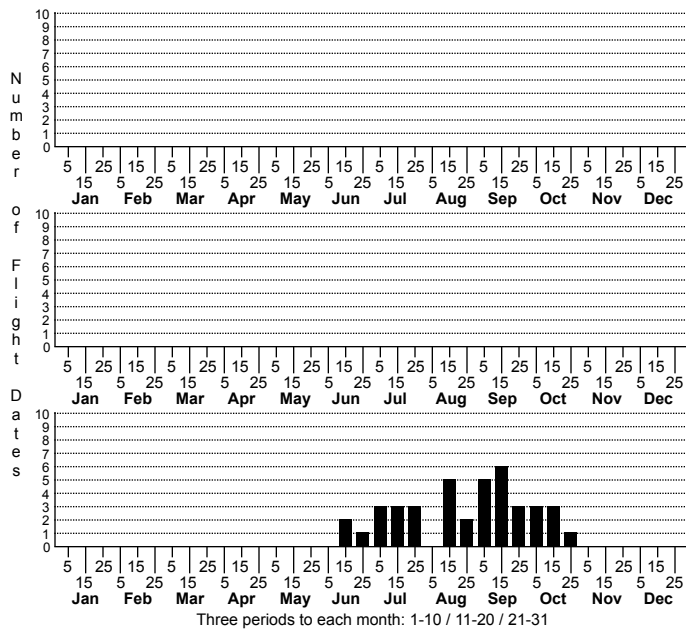


Epipagis fenestralis Orange Epipagis Moth



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Pyraustinae TRIBE: Spilomelini
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Munroe (1955)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: This species has a checkerboard pattern on the forewing that consists of dull orange and white patches. The antemedial line is broadly wavy, while the conspicuous postmedial line is orangish-brown and thick, with an outwardly bowed section on the inner third of the wing. The fringe is boldly checkered with brown and white, and the abdomen has prominent dull orange and white banding along its length. The hindwing is predominately white except for a dull orange marginal shade that is widest at the apex. The antemedial line is broken and does not extend all the way across the wing, while the postmedial line is bolder and often complete. The fringe is white with a row of fine dark dots at the base. Features that help to distinguish this species are the prominent postmedial line and checkered fringe on the forewing, the prominent banding on the abdomen, the dull orange marginal shade on the hindwing that is widest at the apex, and the presence of two transverse lines on the hindwing. *Samea castellalis* is similar, but lacks a prominent postmedial line and has spotting on the apical third of the costa.

DISTRIBUTION: *Epipagis fenestralis* occurs in Central and North America. The range in North America is centered on the southeastern U.S. and extends from New Jersey and Maryland southward to southern Florida, and westward to central Texas, central Oklahoma, Missouri and southern Illinois. There are also isolated records from northern Indiana, northern Illinois and eastern Nebraska. As of 2023, all of our records are from the Coastal Plain and Piedmont.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been observed from March through December in different areas of the range, with the peak flights between July through October. As of 2023, our records extend from mid-June through late October.

HABITAT: This species is frequently observed in open, herbaceous habitats, including old fields, pastures, roadside rights-of-way, open woodlands and pine savannas.

FOOD: Adults are diurnal flower visitors, but the larval host plants are undocumented.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to building and UV lights, and are often seen on flowers during the day.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S3S4

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

COMMENTS: *Epipagis fenestralis* appears to be reasonably secure in North Carolina, but details about its feeding ecology and preferred habitats are needed to fully assess its status in North Carolina.