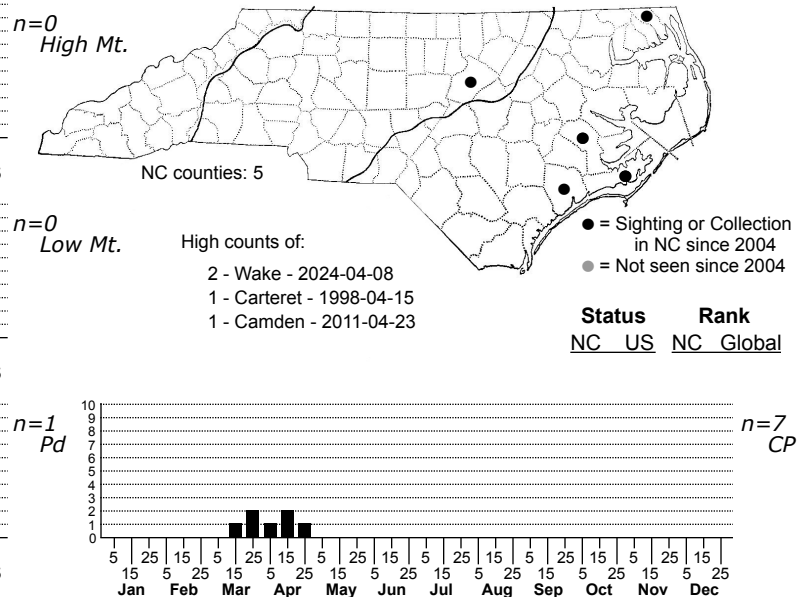
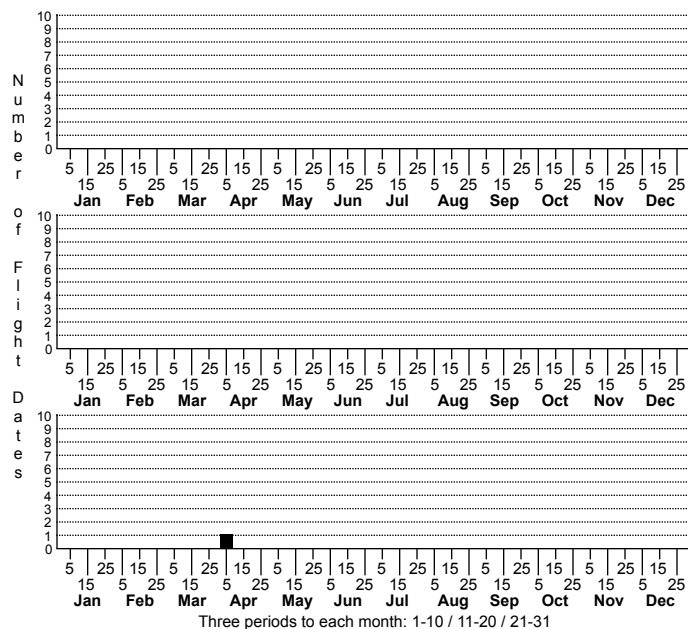


Franclemontia interrogans Franclemont's Cane Moth



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Noctuinae TRIBE: Apameini

TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: The sole member of this genus, which was created for this species by Ferguson (1992); previously it had been placed in Phragmatiphila. Based on genitalic features, Ferguson considered Chortodes to be the closest related genus. This species and genus are endemic to the Southeast.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Ferguson (1992)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: A medium-sized Apameine. The forewings are pale tan with a darker brown horizontal streak. The orbicular is a small dark spot and the reniform a narrow, sinuous, pale mark with a dark center (Ferguson, 1992). Hindwings are darker brown.

DISTRIBUTION: Currently known only from the Outer Coastal Plain but could turn up in other areas of the state in association with canebrakes

FLIGHT COMMENT: Univoltine, flying in the early spring

HABITAT: Our few records come from areas with extensive growths of cane, including Non-riverine Swamp Forests and Longleaf Pine Flatwoods.

FOOD: Ferguson (1992) thought that Franclemontia was likely to feed on some species of tall grass and Quinter (2001) identified it as a cane-feeding species.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: Our few records come from blacklight traps but as with other species that feed on cane, it may be more routinely discovered by searching canebrakes at night (Quinter, pers. comm.).

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G3G4 S2S3

STATE PROTECTION: Listed as Significantly Rare by the Natural Heritage Program. That designation, however, does not confer any legal protection, although permits are required to collect it on state parks and other public lands.

COMMENTS: Long considered rare and poorly known (Ferguson, 1992), we have very few records for this moth despite having sampled many areas specifically for cane-feeding species. More surveys need to be conducted in cane habitats during the early spring in order to better determine its distribution and abundance in the state.