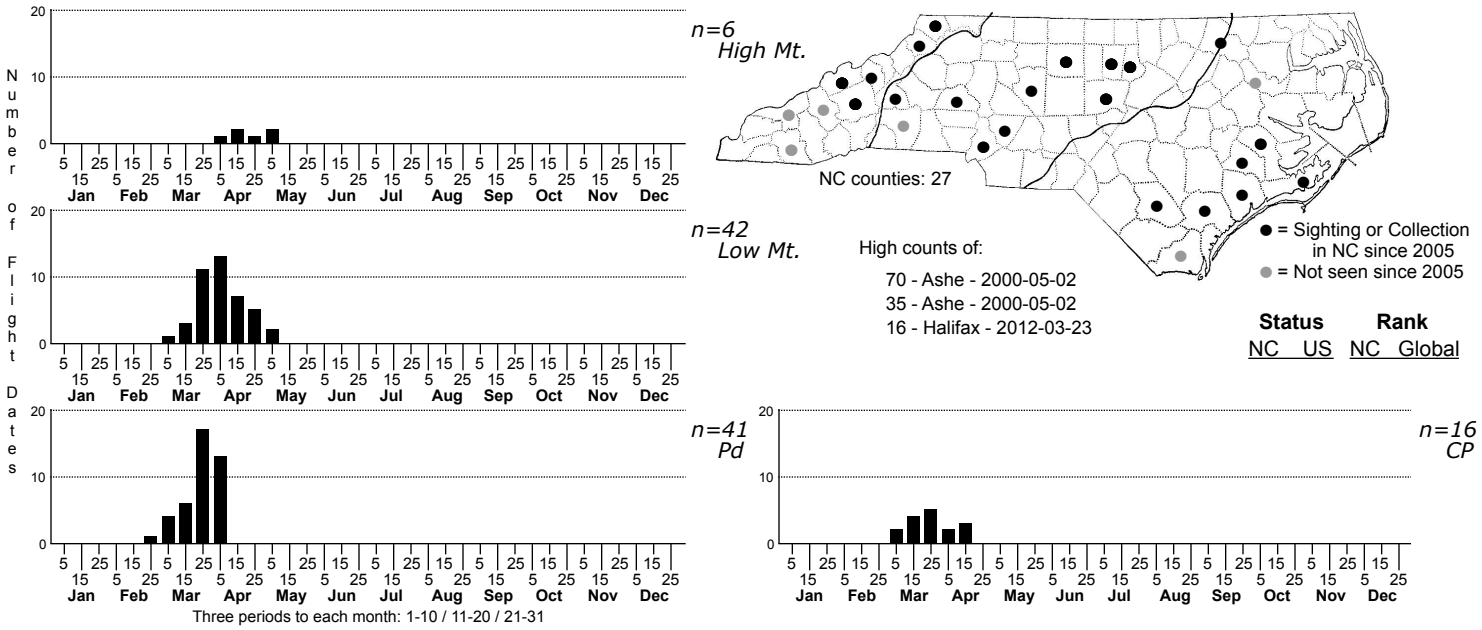
Copivaleria grotei Grote's Sallow



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Amphipyrinae TRIBE: Psaphidini
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: A single species found in the eastern and central parts of North America as well as North Carolina. Related to Psaphida but more closely to Pseudocopivaleria, a genus of two western US species.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984); Beadle and Leckie (2012)
ONLINE PHOTOS:
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1954); Poole (1995)
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Wagner et al. (2011)

ID COMMENTS: Copivaleria when worn is most likely confused with Psaphida resumens, which differs by its white orbicular spot, more distinct anal dash, and gray margin.

DISTRIBUTION: Occurs in all provinces of the state but may be restricted to brownwater river systems in the Coastal Plain -- we have no records, so far, from blackwater swamps that support populations of Pumpkin Ash or Carolina Ash.

FLIGHT COMMENT: One of our early spring moths, this species is generally common for about 3 weeks from March to early May.

HABITAT: In the Coastal Plain, our records all come from brownwater river floodplains, where Green Ash (Fraxinus pennsylvanica) is the most likely host plant. In the Piedmont and Mountains, it has been recorded primarily in upland habitats, particularly in habitats with rich or circumneutral substrates; White Ash (Fraxinus americana) is the likely host in those habitats.

FOOD: Larvae are stenophagous, feeding on species of ash (Fraxinus).

OBSERVATION_METHODS: Adults are attracted to light but not bait.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S2S3]

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

COMMENTS: This species is still fairly widespread in North Carolina and found in a variety of hardwood forest communities. However, as an Ash specialist, it likely to be highly threatened by the spread of the Emerald Ash Borer, which has the potential to eliminate most of the Ash species in our state (see Wagner, 2007 for details about the magnitude of this threat).