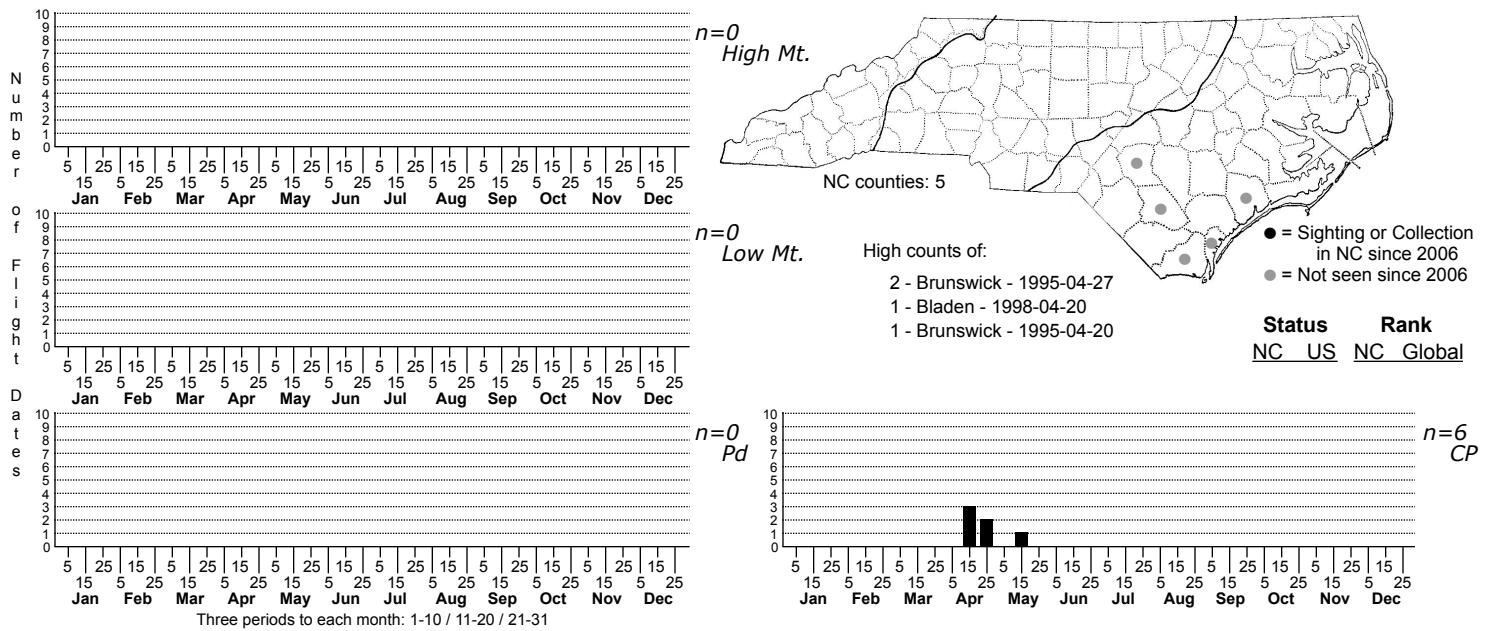


# *Sympistis perscripta* Scribbled Sallow



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Oncocnemidinae TRIBE:

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of 256 species in this genus that occur in North America north of Mexico (Lafontaine and Schmidt, 2010). The vast majority of these species are associated with xeric habitats in the West (Troubridge, 2008) and only four species have been recorded in North Carolina.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1954, as *Oncocnemis perscripta*)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Forbes (1954); Wagner et al. (2011)

ID COMMENTS: A medium-sized, pale gray to grayish brown Noctuid with well-marked transverse lines and spots. The ground color is fairly uniform but the basal third may be somewhat darker. The antemedian and postmedian lines are both contrastingly black and sinuous or waved; the antemedian is often bordered anteriorly with a brownish shade. The orbicular, claviform, and reniform spots are all large and represented by fine black outlines that are filled with the ground color. A subterminal line composed of small spots may also be present. Hindwings are dirty-white (Forbes, 1954).

DISTRIBUTION: All of our records come from the southern half of the Coastal Plain, including the Fall-line Sandhills

FLIGHT COMMENT: Possibly univoltine, with our records all coming from April and May

HABITAT: Our records come from sandy habitats in the Coastal Plain, mostly from within Longleaf Pine-dominated sandhill habitats or where these habitats are located close by. Common Toadflax often occurs in disturbed habitats, but since our surveys have targeted native habitats for the most part, we have no records from such sites in North Carolina

FOOD: Larvae are stenophagous, feeding on toadflaxes, particularly Canada Toadflax (*Linaria canadensis*), as well as on snapdragons (*Antirrhinum*) (Wagner et al., 2011).

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: All our records were obtained using blacklights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G4 SU

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

COMMENTS: This species has long been considered to be local and uncommon (e.g., Forbes, 1954). Wagner et al. (2011) also describe its populations as fugitive. Our few records are consistent with these descriptions, at least with respect to natural habitats. It is possible, however, that this species is more common in disturbed areas, which appears to be the case for its host plant. Until more surveys -- particularly of larvae -- are conducted in such habitats, we cannot be certain about its conservation status in North Carolina.