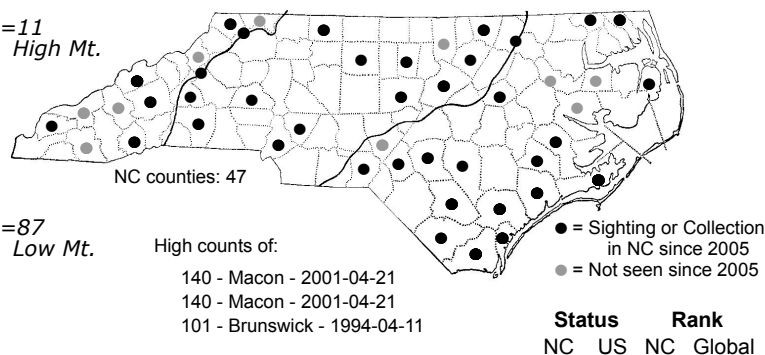
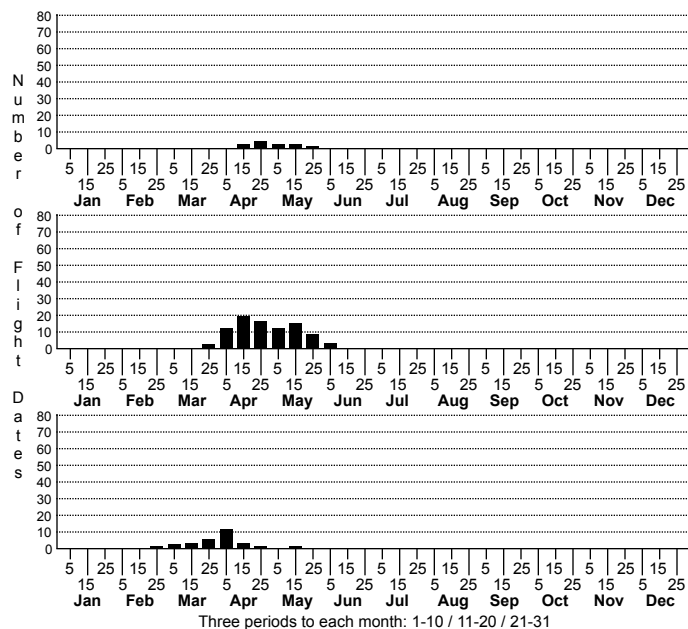


## *Egira alternans* Alternate Woodling



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Noctuinae TRIBE: Orthosiini

TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS: A genus of some 23 species, most are North American but others come from Japan, South Africa, Turkey and the type from Europe. It is almost certainly a polyphyletic genus and in need of revision. We have but a single species in North Carolina and it does not seem particularly close to the European type species.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984); Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1954), as *Xylomiges alternans*

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

ID COMMENTS: Pattern fairly distinct but could be confused with *Psaphida rolandi*. In *Egira* look for the alternate light and dark rings on the abdomen, there is often a reddish flush overlaying the forewing pattern, and it is in flight slightly later than *Psaphida*. In the heath habitats of the Coastal Plain it is often the most common spring noctuid whereas *Psaphida* species are quite uncommon. Sexes are similar.

DISTRIBUTION: Found in wooded habitats from the coastal islands to the higher altitudes in the western part of the state.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Univoltine, with adults flying in the spring, from March to May

HABITAT: We have records from nearly every type of habitat in the state, from Maritime Scrub, Peatlands, Longleaf Pine Habitats and river floodplains in the Coastal Plain to mesic and dry ridges in the Piedmont and Mountains.

FOOD: Larvae are reported from a wide variety of woody plants. Wagner et al. (2011) specifically list buckeye (*Aesculus*), Leatherleaf (*Chamaedaphne calyculata*), silverbell (*Halesia*), walnut (*Juglans*), honeysuckle (*Lonicera*), Sourwood (*Oxydendrum arboreum*), cherry (*Prunus*), oak (*Quercus*), *Rhododendron*, and blueberry (*Vaccinium*). We have found it on blueberry, Black Oak (*Quercus velutina*), and Red Chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia*), but it likely has a much broader range of foodplants. J.B. Sullivan also reared larvae from Sparkleberry (*Vaccinium arboreum*), Turkey Oak (*Quercus laevis*), and Waxmyrtle (*Morella cerifera*).

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: Adults can be very common in traps in March and April (and May in the mountains). They do not come to bait but have been seen at spring flowers such as plum.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S5]

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

COMMENTS: We have numerous records for this species, unlike many others that fly at the same time of the year. *Egira* appears to be one of the most ubiquitous and abundant species in the state and is quite secure.