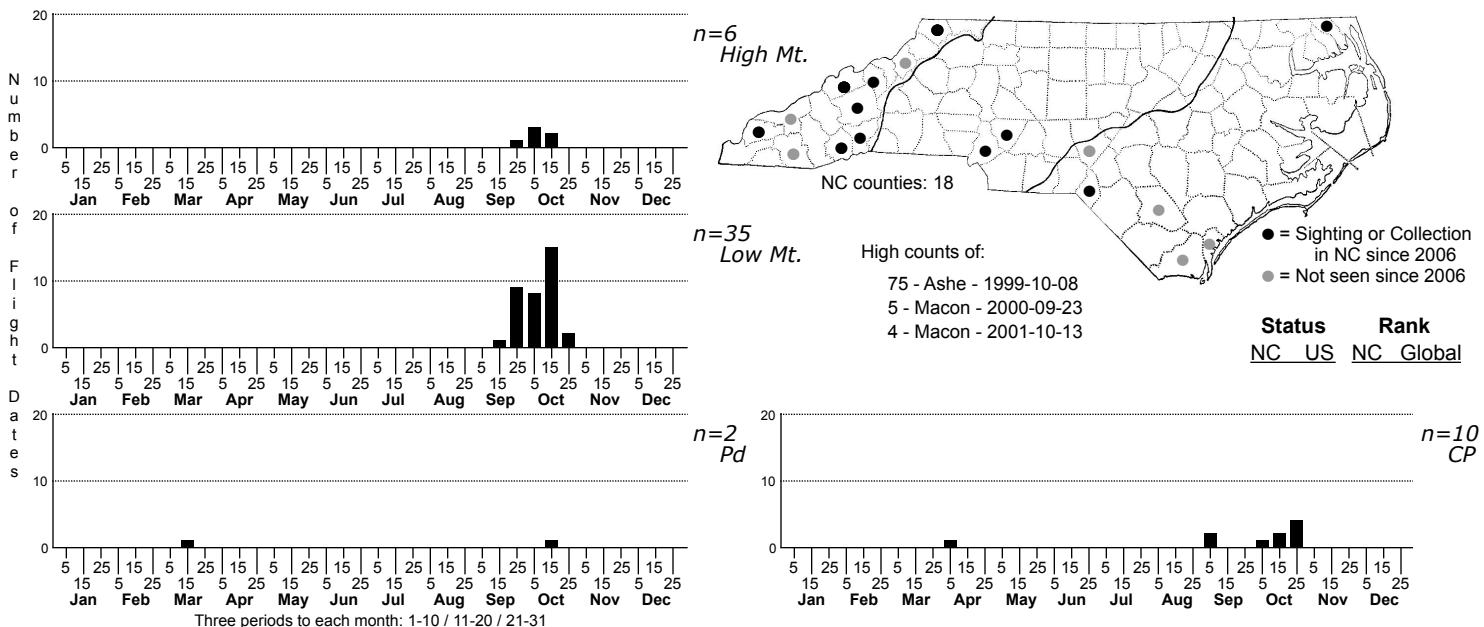


Agrotis venerabilis Venerable Dart



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Noctuinae TRIBE: Noctuini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of twenty-three species in this genus that occur in North America north of Mexico (Lafontaine and Schmidt, 2010), seven of which have been recorded in North Carolina

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: A typical Dart, with a strong, elongated claviform spot that is strongly outlined with black and filled with gray; this spot is separated by the antemedian line from a thin basal dash (Forbes, 1954). This spot strongly contrasts with the light brown ground color of the lower portion of the wing. The orbicular is also elongated and elliptical but does not contrast with the darker shade that extends along the costa to the large, dark reniform spot. A small dark wedge may follow the reniform, similar but smaller than the mark found in *Agrotis ipsilon*. The head and collar are dark brown, contrasting with the pale tegulae and thoracic crest. The hindwings are dark fuscous. *A. volubilis* is similar but has a much strong basal dash that crosses the antemedian and joins the claviform. *A. malefida* has a much shorter and thicker claviform and a blackish collar. *A. ipsilon* always has a dark wedge beyond the reniform, which is longer and more sharply pointed than any wedge that occurs in *A. venerabilis*.

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT:

FOOD: Larvae are reported to be polyphagous, feeding on a variety of plants, including several of agricultural importance. Among the hosts listed by Pogue (2006) are alfalfa, barley, chickweed, corn, and tobacco. Other reported hosts include clover, oats, sweet clover, and tomato (Heppner, 2007; Beadle & Leckie, 2012). We do not have any feeding records in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S3S4]

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

COMMENTS: