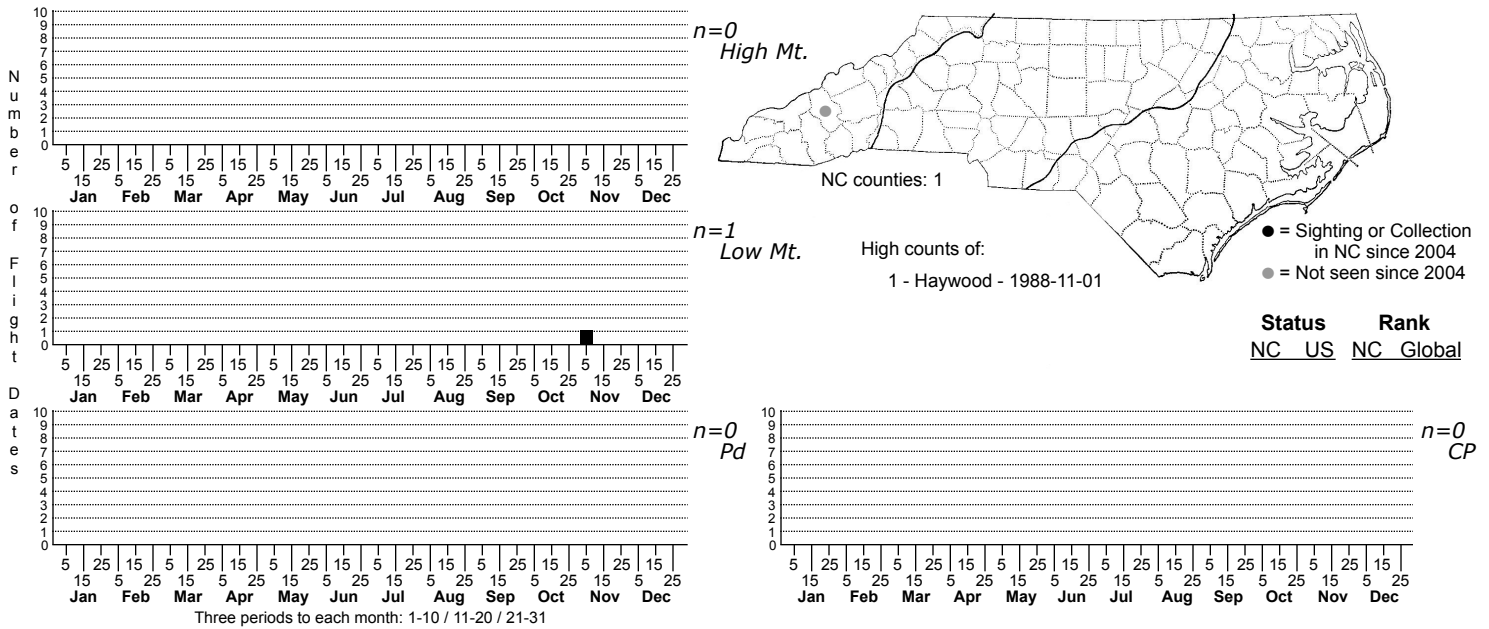


*Agrotis volubilis* Voluble Dart



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 directly connected to a heavy, dark basal dash that distinctively crosses the antemedian line (Forbes, 1954). This spot strongly contrasts with the light brown ground color of the lower portion of the wing. The orbicular is rounded and not as extended as in *Agrotis venerabilis*; both the orbicular and reniform are distinctly darker than the dark shade that extends along the costa to the reniform. A small dark wedge may follow the reniform, similar but smaller than the mark found in *A. ipsilon*. The head and collar are dark brown, contrasting with the pale tegulae and thoracic crest. The hindwings are whitish, particularly in the males, but shaded with fuscous. *A. venerabilis* is similar but has a weaker basal dash that does not cross the antemedian. *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. volubilis*.

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT:

FOOD: Among the hosts listed by Pogue (2006) are alfalfa, barley, chickweed, clover, corn, and tobacco. We do not have any feeding records in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [SU]

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

COMMENTS: North Carolina specimens need to be confirmed.