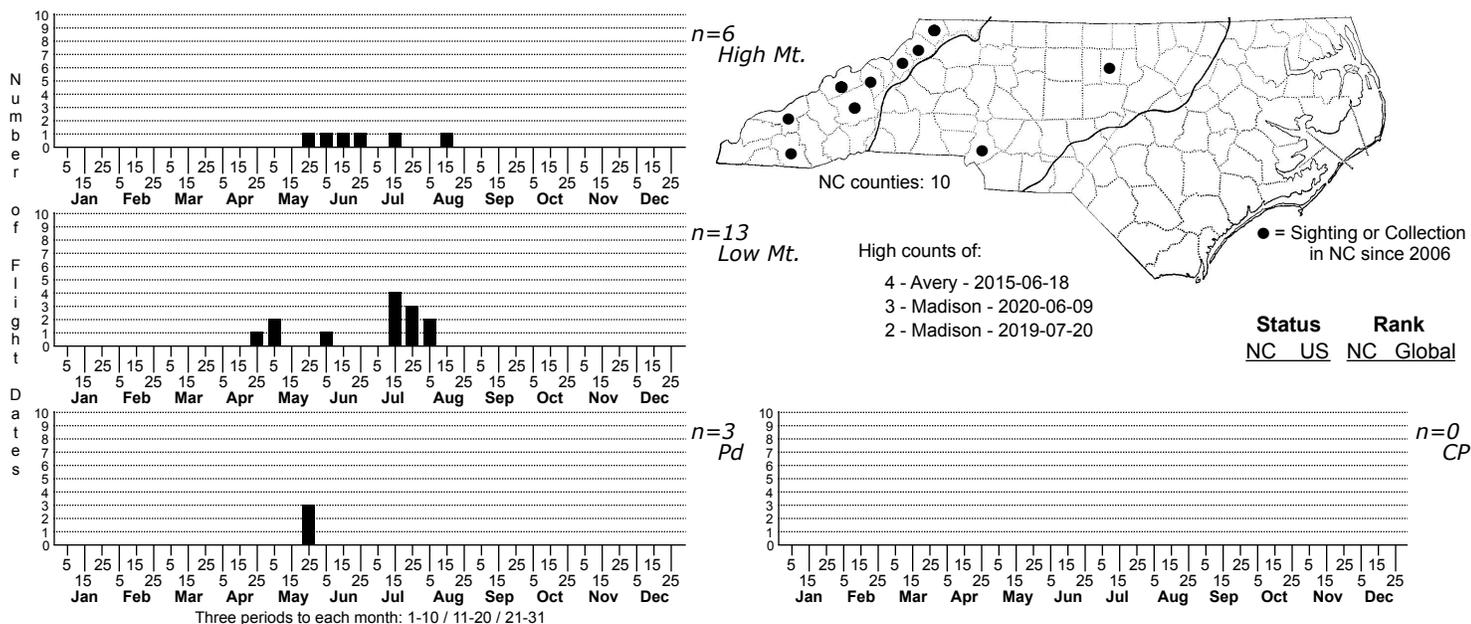


## *Swammerdamia caesiella* Gray-blue Swammerdamia



FAMILY: Yponomeutidae SUBFAMILY: Yponomeutinae TRIBE: [Yponomeutinae]

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: *Swammerdamia caesiella* in North America are very similar to European forms that are nearly identical in adult and larval maculation, but the two are genetically different and fall into separate BINS (BOLD). Here, we limit this species to North American populations.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Duckworth (1965)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: *Swammerdamia caesiella* is recognized by its bright white head and thorax that contrast with the bluish-gray forewings. The following description is based in part on that of Duckworth (1965). The labial palp is relatively short, weakly upcurved, and fuscous, with the apical tip white. The antenna has a white base, but is otherwise fuscous with white annulations. The head, face and thorax are all white, while the legs are light to dark gray, with the tarsi more or less annulated with dull white. The forewing is bluish-gray due to a mix of bluish-white and fuscous scales. Some specimens can have a small whitish costal spot just before the apex. The fringe is fuscous with a coppery luster, and the hindwing varies from gray to light brown with a concolorous fringe.

DISTRIBUTION: *Swammerdamia caesiella* is most commonly found in eastern North America in areas with cool climates, but there are also scattered records from Alaska, the Yukon Territories, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. In the East the range includes much of southern Canada from Ontario eastward to Nova Scotia, and portions of the US from Maine and other New England states westward through the Great Lakes region to Wisconsin and Minnesota, and southward to Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, West Virginia, eastern Kentucky, western Virginia, eastern Tennessee and western North Carolina. Scattered records are also known from western Tennessee, Arkansas, northern Georgia and northern Alabama. As of 2025, most of our records are from the Blue Ridge where it occurs from the lower valleys to as high as Mt. Mitchell. There also are two isolated records from the Piedmont.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been found from March through September in different areas of the range, with the peak season from May through August. As of 2025, our records extend from late-April through mid-August, with local populations at lower elevations in the Blue Ridge probably producing two broods annually.

HABITAT: Local populations in North Carolina are generally associated with hardwood forests, including semi-wooded residential neighborhoods.

FOOD: The host plants are somewhat nebulous due perhaps to taxonomic issues over the years. Eiseman (2022) listed alder (*Alnus*), birch (*Betula*), and chestnut (*Castanea*), while Duckworth (1965) listed birch, hawthorn (*Crataegus*) and cherry (*Prunus*) that were presumably based on museum labels. Birches appear to be the primary hosts, with Paper Birch (*Betula papyrifera*; BugGuide) often used in the northern part of the range. As of 2025, we do not have any rearing records for North Carolina.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S3]

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

COMMENTS: