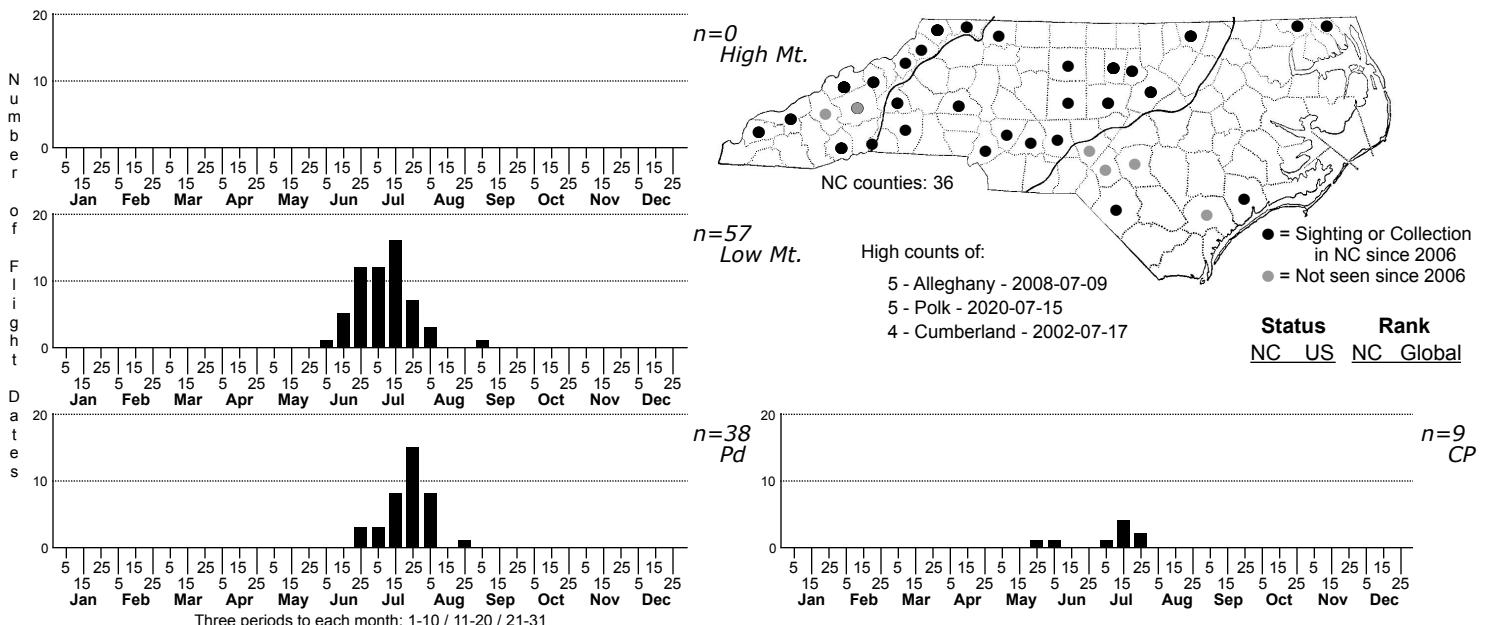


Parasa chloris Smaller Parasa



FAMILY: Limacodidae SUBFAMILY: TRIBE:

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: This is one of two members of this genus that are found in North America, both of which occur in North Carolina.

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1923)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Dyar (1897c); Wagner (2005)

ID COMMENTS: This is a distinctive species that is bicolored. The palps, antennae, legs, and ground color of the forewing are warm brown, while the dorsum of the head, the thorax, and portions of the median and basal areas of the forewing form a continuous, broad, bright green band when viewed from the side. The green band on the forewing is edged with a thin dark brown line, and the veins on the apical half are also dark brown. Individuals typically rests in an upright stance on thick, "furry" brown legs, in a slightly "head down" posture.

Parasa chloris is very similar to *P. indeterminata* but is smaller and the posterior edge of the green median area is straight or slightly concave. In addition, the subapical area adjacent to the outer margin is evenly brown (except for the darker brown veins). In *Parasa indeterminata*, the posterior edge of the green median area is more rounded, and the subapical area adjacent to the outer margin has a diffuse dark brown blotch near the middle of the wing. Worn specimens may be difficult to distinguish, but can be identified using genitalia.

DISTRIBUTION: *Parasa chloris* is found in the eastern US and Ontario, Canada. In the US the range extends from southern New York, Massachusetts and Connecticut southward to central Florida, and westward to eastern Texas, Arkansas, southeastern Missouri, southeastern Iowa and Illinois. This species occurs statewide, but is relatively uncommon in the Coastal Plain where hardwoods are less prevalent.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been observed from February through October in different areas of the range, with a seasonal peak in most populations occurring in June through August. Populations in North Carolina are univoltine, which is likely the case for most populations throughout the range. As of 2023, our records extend from late-May through early September, with a peak in flight activity in July.

HABITAT: Our records are mostly from sites with deciduous or mixed pine-hardwood forests, and encompass a wide range of moisture conditions from alluvial forests to dry or xeric habitats. Local populations also commonly occur in semi-wooded residential neighborhoods and along forest edges and wooded fencerows.

FOOD: The larvae are polyphagous and feed almost entirely on deciduous trees and shrubs (Dyar, 1897c; Wagner, 2005; Heppner, 2007; Robinson et al., 2010; Murphy et al., 2011; Marquis et al., 2019). The reported hosts include birches (*Betula*), hickories (*Carya*), American Hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*), American Chestnut (*Castanea dentata*), bittersweet (*Celastrus*), dogwoods (*Cornus*), American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), spicebush (*Lindera*), loosestrifes (*Lysimachia*), apples (*Malus*), Common Waxmyrtle (*Morella cerifera*), poplars (*Populus*), Sweet Cherry (*Prunus avium*), Black Cherry (*P. serotina*), pears (*Pyrus*), White Oak (*Quercus alba*), Chinquapin Oak (*Q. muehlenbergii*), Northern Red Oak (*Q. rubra*), Black Oak (*Q. velutina*), roses (*Rosa*), willows (*Salix*), American Basswood (*Tilia americana*), elms (*Ulmus*), and Northern Highbush Blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*). In North Carolina, larvae have been recorded feeding on Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*), hickory, Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*), American Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*), and American Beech.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are readily attracted to lights and the larvae can be found feeding beneath the leaves of hardwoods in late summer.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G4 S4

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

COMMENTS: This species is common in the Blue Ridge and Piedmont, and rather uncommon in the Coastal Plain. It is polyphagous on many common hardwoods and appears to be secure within North Carolina.