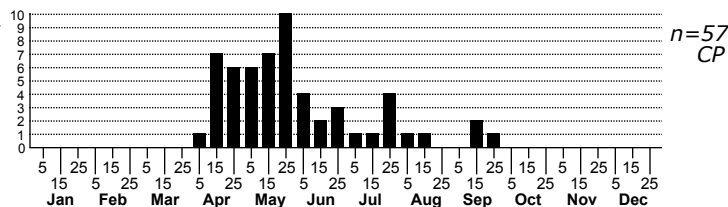
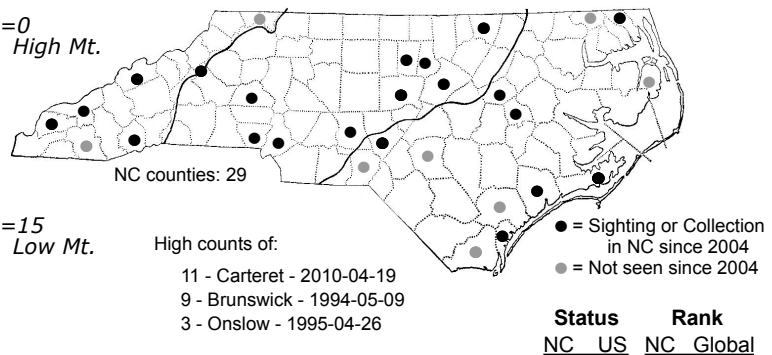
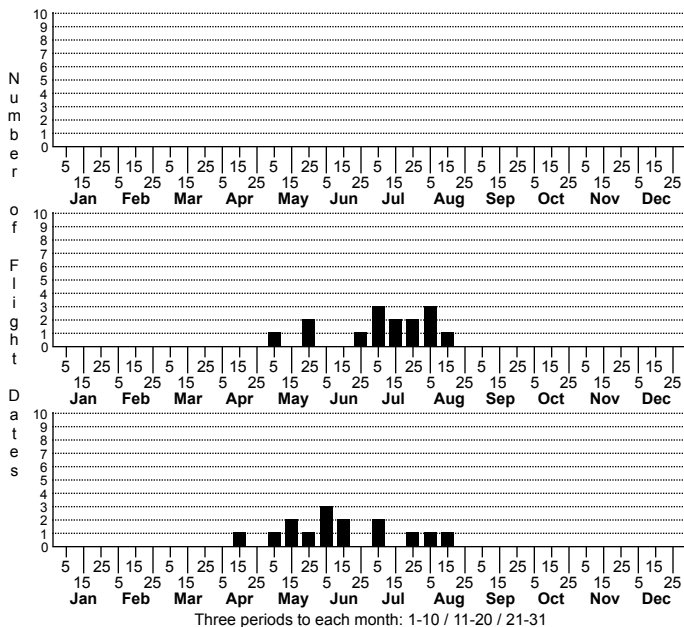


# *Dolba hyloeus* Pawpaw Sphinx



FAMILY: Sphingidae SUBFAMILY: Sphinginae TRIBE: Sphingini

TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS: The only species in the genus. Hodges (1971) placed the genus near *Manduca* based on genitalic characters.

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1948); Hodges (1971); Tuttle (2007)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Forbes (1948); Wagner (2005); Tuttle (2007)

ID COMMENTS: Wing pattern consists of brown and white patches, much like *Manduca rustica*, but this species is much smaller and lacks the yellow spots that *rustica* has on the sides of its abdomen. *Paratreia plebeja* often occurs with it, is the same size and shape, but is streaked and obviously different. Sexes are similar.

DISTRIBUTION: Found throughout North Carolina except possibly for the high mountains.

FLIGHT COMMENT: There appear to be two broods, especially in the coastal plain but the second brood is smaller in numbers. Look for adults in April and May.

HABITAT: Most common in hardwood habitats, especially rich mesic woodlands or along river floodplains and rich bottomlands where Common Pawpaw occurs. In the Coastal Plain it is also common in wet pine flatwoods and pocosins, probably in association with *Ilex glabra*. It also occurs in fairly xeric, sandy habitats, including maritime forests and scrub where possibly in association with Yaupon (*Ilex vomitoria*), and inland sandhills, possibly in association with Dwarf Pawpaw (*A. parviflora*).

FOOD: Oligophagous, with Pawpaw, probably both species (*Asimina triloba* and *A. parviflora*), as well as Inkberry (*Ilex glabra*) and other hollies reported as foodplants for the caterpillars (Wagner, 2005). There is no evidence for which of these species is used in any area of the state, a fruitful topic for research.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: Adults come readily to lights -- multiple individuals can occur in a single trap -- and have been observed visiting flowers at dusk, especially petunias and buttonbush. There is no attraction to fermented fruits or other common baiting materials.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 S4S5

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

COMMENTS: Given its use of multiple, fairly common host plants, broad habitat associations, and extensive occurrence across the state, this species appears to be secure.