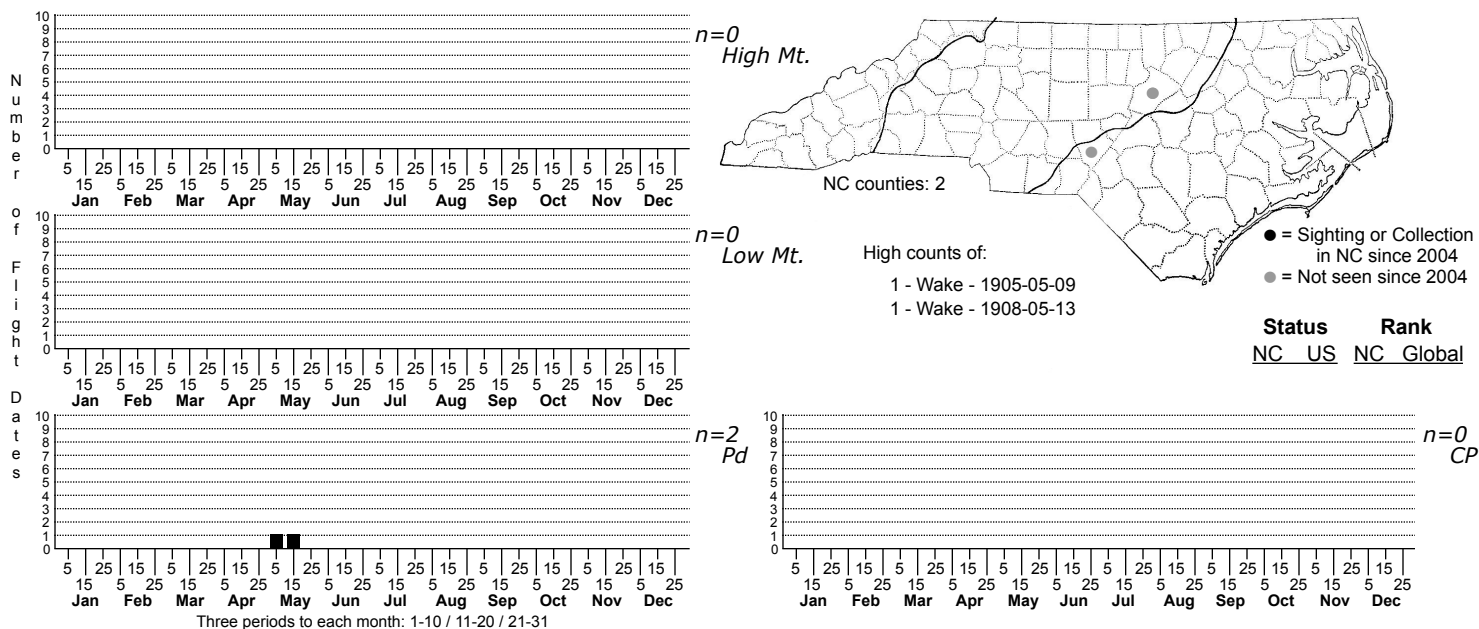


Sphinx drupiferarum Wild Cherry Sphinx



FAMILY: Sphingidae SUBFAMILY: Sphinginae TRIBE: Sphingini

TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: This large genus of some 27 species ranges from England to Japan and down through the Americas. There are approximately 14 resident species in North America and at least 5 in North Carolina. Two very different larval types occur in the genus and it is likely that Sphinx is composed of more than one genus.

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: A large Sphinx Moth with forewings with a dark gray central shade running from the base to the apex, bounded by pale brownish gray on the costa and outer margin. This species looks like a very large, dark *S. gordius* but the forewing areas that are light in *S. gordius* are dark in *S. drupiferarum* and vice-versa. Sexes are similar.

DISTRIBUTION: Known only from historic records in the eastern Piedmont and Sandhills.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Not enough information in the state to determine a pattern. Should be looked for from May to July.

HABITAT: This is a woodland species which may also occur in old fields.

FOOD: Like *S. gordius*, larvae are recorded primarily from Rosaceous plants, namely apple, cherry and serviceberry. There is also a report from hackberry which seems unusual.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: Adults are attracted to lights and to flowers but not to baits.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G4 [SH]

STATE PROTECTION: Not currently listed by the Natural Heritage Program but probably should be considered for addition to the Watch List, based on the lack of recent records.

COMMENTS: Any records from the southern end of its range are considered rare but the reasons for this scarcity are unclear -- neither host plants or habitat appear to be restrictive. Records from the eastern Piedmont and Sandhills are very old and there do not appear to be any recent records for Virginia as well.