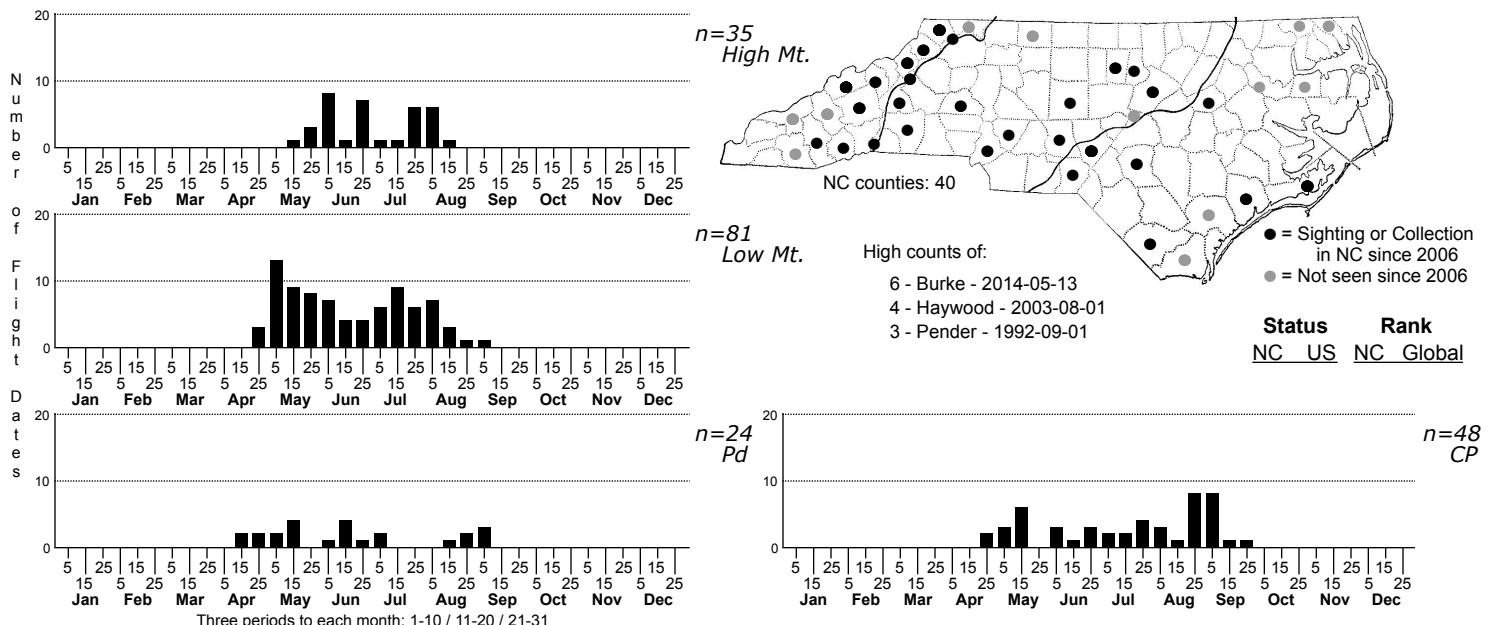


Paonias myops Small-eyed Sphinx



FAMILY: Sphingidae SUBFAMILY: Smerinthinae TRIBE: Smerinthini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: A Holarctic genus of 4 species of which 3 occur in North America and North Carolina. Two are among our most common species.

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: The typically dark forewings and lemon color on the hindwings around the ocellus distinguish this species from <i>Smerinthus</i> species and <i>Paonias excaecata</i>. Some forms are more yellowish, resembling <i>Paonias astylus</i>, but are more mottled and have a more waved outer margin on the forewing. Sexes are similar.

DISTRIBUTION: Occurs statewide.

FLIGHT COMMENT: There are likely two broods in the Piedmont and Coastal Plain but a single brood in the Mountains.

HABITAT: Our records come from virtually all wooded and shrubby habitats across the state, including maritime forests and scrub, peatlands, Longleaf Pine communities, floodplain forests, mesic slopes and dry ridges.

FOOD: Larvae feed on plants in the Rosaceae, particularly cherries, but also hawthorn and serviceberry (Wagner, 2005). In North Carolina, larvae have been recorded feeding on Black Cherry (<i>Prunus serotina</i>), which also seems to be the primary host in BugGuide records.

OBSERVATION METHODS: Adults come readily to lights but not to flowers nor to bait.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S4S5]

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

COMMENTS: With its statewide distribution, wide range of host plants, and broad habitat use, this species appears to be secure.