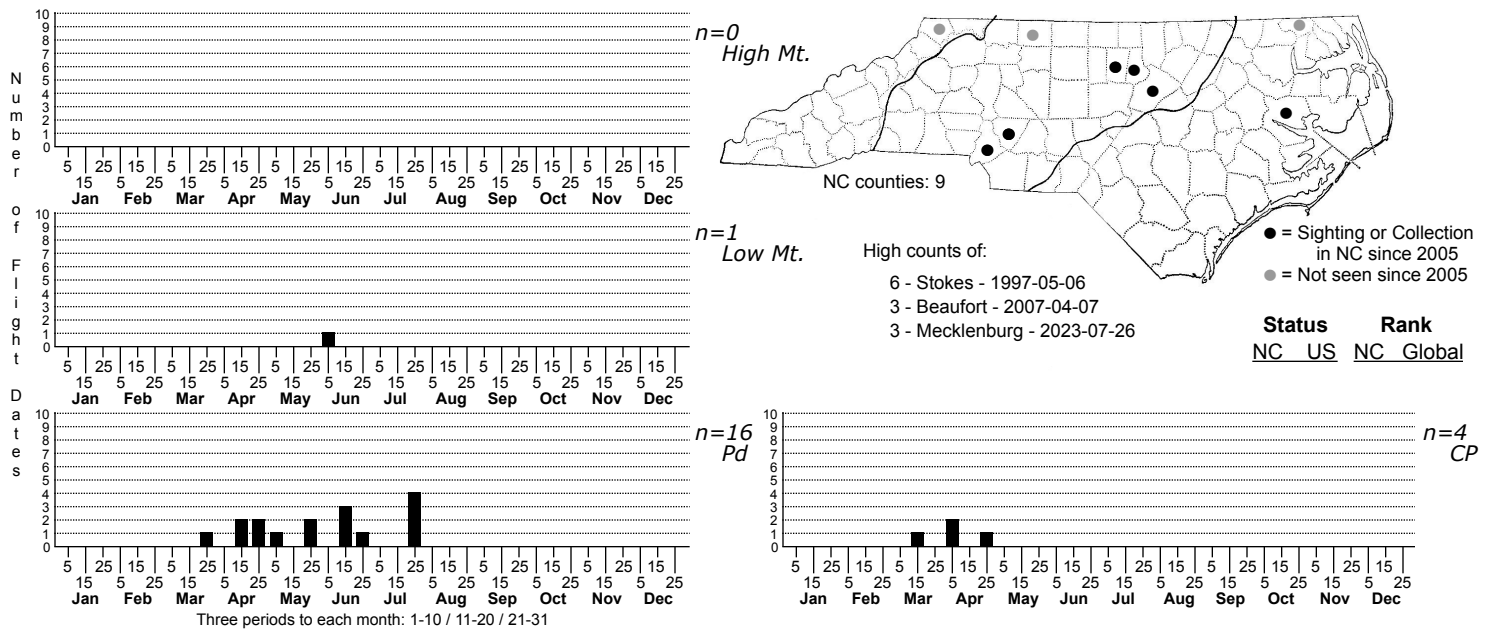


## *Zale metatoides*    Washed-out Zale



FAMILY: Erebidae    SUBFAMILY: Erebinae    TRIBE: Ophiuini

TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS: One of 39 species in this genus that occur north of Mexico, 23 of which have been recorded in North Carolina

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: McDunnough (1943); Forbes (1954); Rings et al. (1992)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Forbes (1954); Wagner (2005); Wagner et al. (2011)

ID COMMENTS: *Metatoides* is similar in color but slightly darker than *metata*, *confusa*, and *helata*, all of which also have obscure medial lines. *Helata* can usually be distinguished by the brown shades that narrowly border its antemedial and postmedian lines; the brown shades in *metatoides* before the antemedial line extend all the way to the basal line. *Metata* and *confusa* are usually paler and less contrastingly patterned than either *metatoides* or *helata*. In many cases, dissection is needed to confirm the identities of these species.

DISTRIBUTION: Probably occurs across the entire state with the possible exception of the barrier islands and high mountains

FLIGHT COMMENT: Probably has a single spring adult flight, occurring in March, April, and May in the Piedmont and Coastal Plain and slightly later in the Mountains

HABITAT: Records come from a fairly wide range of pine-containing habitats, including Maritime Evergreen Forests, riparian and lakeshore forests, and dry ridges.

FOOD: Larvae are stenophagous, feeding solely on hard pines (subgenus *Pinus*). Wagner (2005) specifically mentions Pitch Pine (<i>Pinus rigida</i>), Shortleaf Pine (<i>P. echinata</i>), and Virginia Pine (<i>P. virginiana</i>), all of which occur in areas where <i>Z. metatoides</i> has been recorded in North Carolina. Loblolly Pine (<i>P. taeda</i>) also occurs at most, if not all, sites where this species has been recorded and seems another likely host.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: May come poorly to lights, which could explain the scarcity of records for what should be a fairly common species. Probably comes well to bait, like other members of this genus.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S2S4]

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

COMMENTS: Although seemingly an uncommon species in North Carolina, too little is known about the distribution and habitat affinities of *metatoides* to estimate its conservation needs.