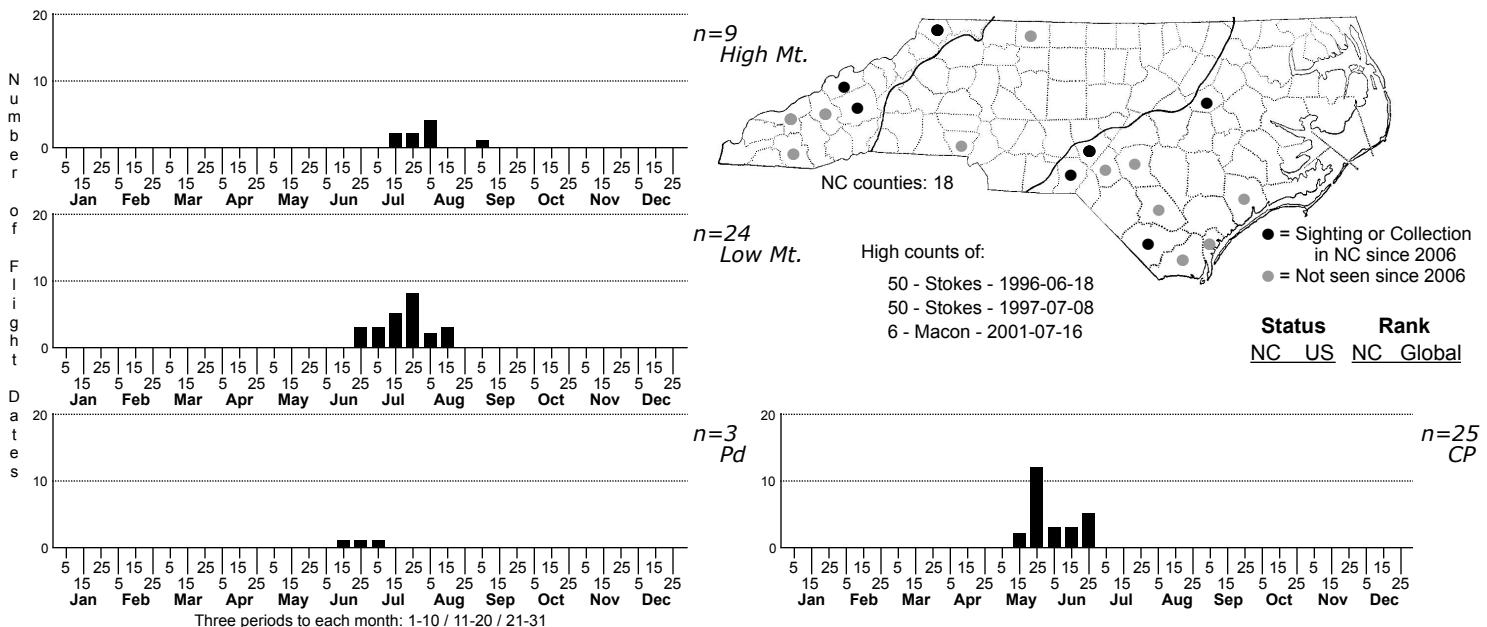


Catocala sordida Sordid Underwing



FAMILY: Erebidae SUBFAMILY: Erebinae TRIBE: Catocalini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of 103 species in this genus that occur in North America (Gall and Hawks, 2010; Kons and Borth, 2015a,b), 67 of which have been recorded in North Carolina. Barnes and MacDunnough (1918) and Forbes (1954) placed this species in Group XV, which also includes *C. gracilis* and *C. andromedae*, all associated with heaths.

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: A medium-grayish species variably shaded with black, whitish, and brown. This species lacks a basal dash but the antemedian and postmedian lines are typically black and fine but occasionally obsolete. The inner margin is usually concolorous with the rest of the forewing but sometimes shaded with black, although usually with a much narrower area than in *gracilis*. The hindwings are banded with black and orange and are similar to those of *gracilis* but the postmedian band usually extends basally along the fold rather than ending abruptly as in *gracilis*. The most reliable difference separating *sordida* from *gracilis*, however, is the absence of a basal dash in *sordida* (Sargent, 1976).

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: Our records come from both dry, rocky ridges and summits in the Mountains and Piedmont and from sandhills and flatwoods in the Coastal Plain.

FOOD: Larvae are stenophagous, feeding on *Vaccinium* species, particularly Lowbush Blueberry (*V. angustifolium*) and Hillside Blueberry (*V. pallidum*) (Wagner et al., 2011). We do not have any feeding records in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION METHODS:

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: