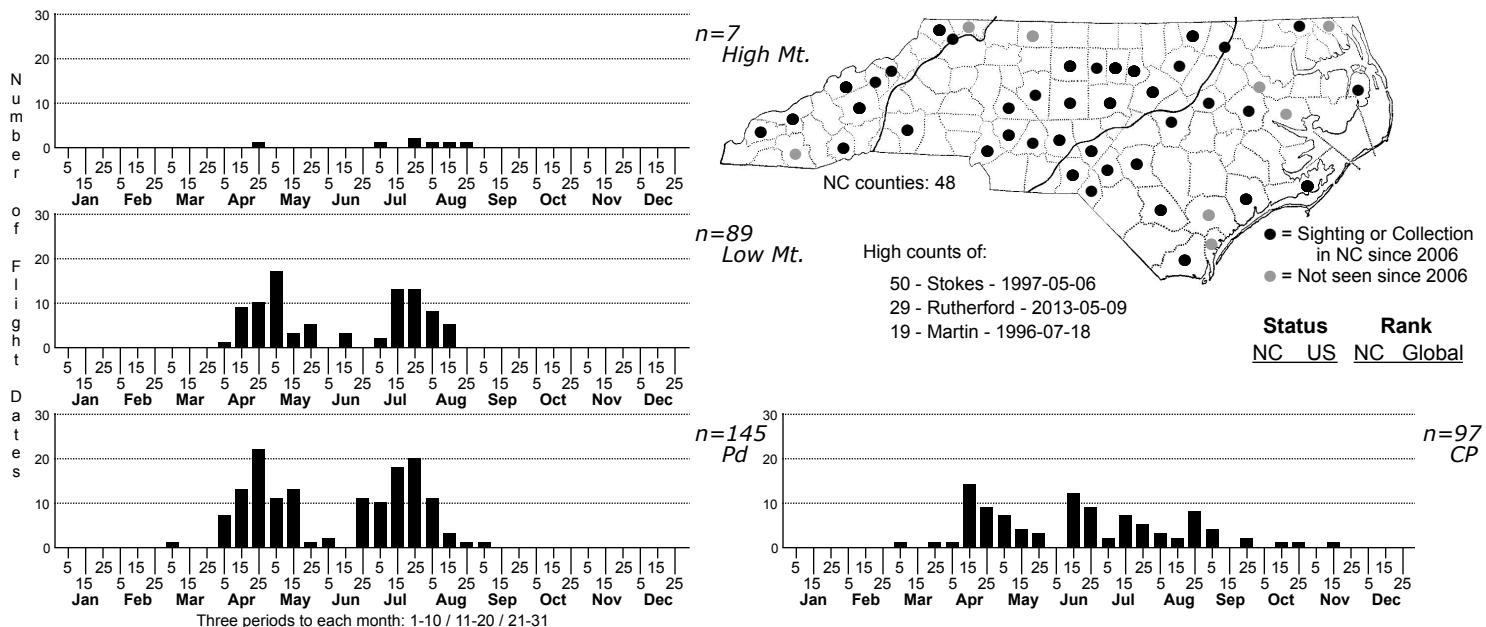


Meganola phylla Coastal Plain Meganola



FAMILY: Nolidae SUBFAMILY: Nolinae TRIBE:

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of eight described species in this genus that occur in North America, three of which are found in North Carolina.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Wagner et al. (2011)

ID COMMENTS: All three of our Meganola species are relatively small gray moths with similar markings. Compared to both *Meganola minuscula* and *spodia*, *M. phylla* has a more sharply defined, darker black spot at the center of the costa and darker black shading at the base of the costa, but comparatively weaker lines, with the postmedian often single rather than double opposite the cell (Dyar, 1898; Forbes, 1948). *Meganola phylla* also typically has a well-defined dark blotch near the posterior margin of the thorax. *Nola triquetra* is similar in size and color, also possessing strong dark spots along the costa, but has an additional third spot at the costal end of the antemedian line that is missing in *M. phylla*. It also lacks the dark thoracic blotch that is present on *M. phylla*.

DISTRIBUTION: Despite its common name, this species is not confined to the Coastal Plain. Instead, it has a state-wide range, occurring in the high mountains to the barrier islands.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT:

FOOD: Larvae feed on beech (*Fagus*) and oaks, including White Oak (*Quercus alba*), Blackjack Oak (*Q. marilandica*), and Dwarf Chinquapin Oak (*Q. prinoides*) (Wagner et al., 2011). In North Carolina, our only feeding record is for White Oak.

OBSERVATION METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR SNR [S5]

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

COMMENTS: