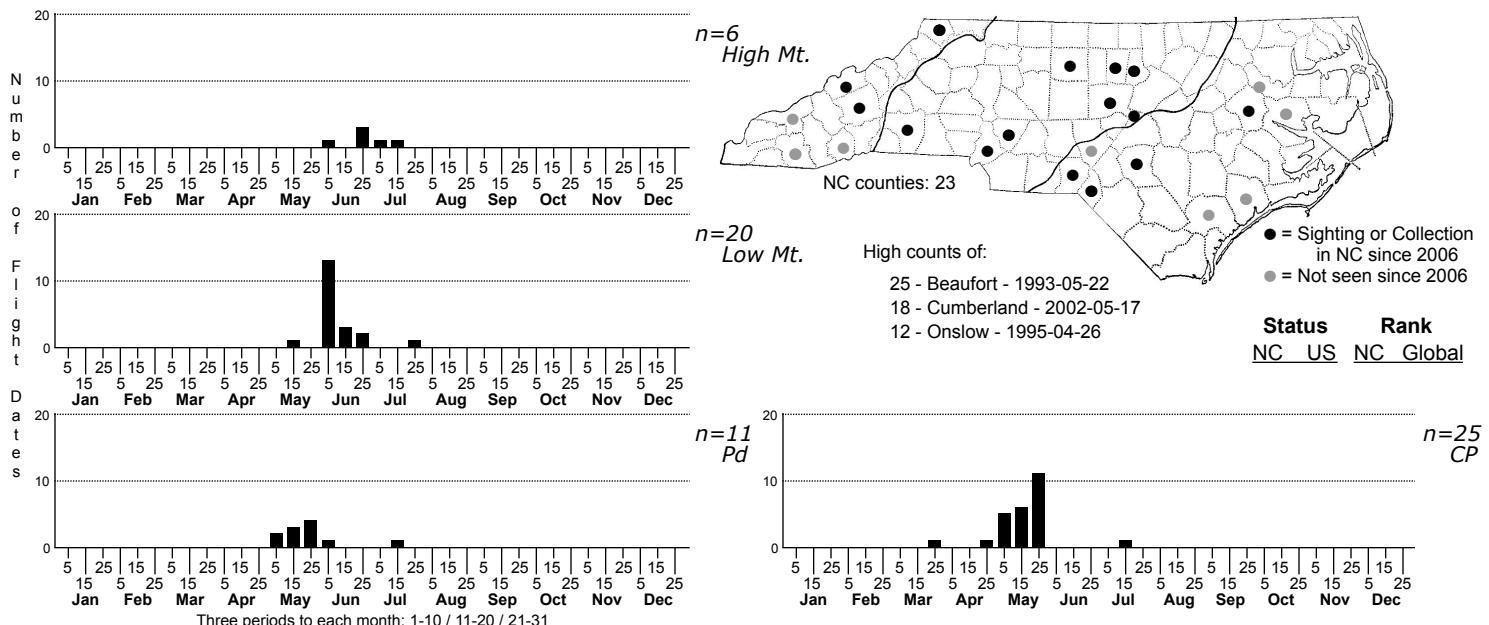


Meganola spodia Ashy Meganola



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: Beadle and Leckie (2012)

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 phylla* and *minuscula*, both of which are whitish or silvery gray, *M. spodia* has a browner tint, which is particularly evident on the darker hindwings (Franclemont, 1985). As in *M. minuscula* but not *phylla*, the lines are strongly marked, with the postmedian double rather than single. The mid-costal spot is rectangular in *spodia* rather than triangular, as it is in the other two species (Franclemont, 1985).

DISTRIBUTION: The species is widespread but relatively uncommon over much of the state, particularly the outer Coastal Plain and higher elevations in the Mountains.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: Our records come from a wide range of oak-containing habitats, including maritime forests, bottomlands, sand ridge scrub, mesic slopes, and dry ridges.

FOOD: Larvae feed on oaks, including red and white oaks (Wagner et al., 2011). Reported hosts include White Oak (*Quercus alba*), Chestnut Oak (*Q. montana*), Northern Red Oak (*Q. rubra*), Post Oak (*Q. stellata*), and Black Oak (*Q. velutina*) (Robinson et al., 2010; Wagner et al., 2011). We do not have any feeding records in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S3S4]

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

COMMENTS: