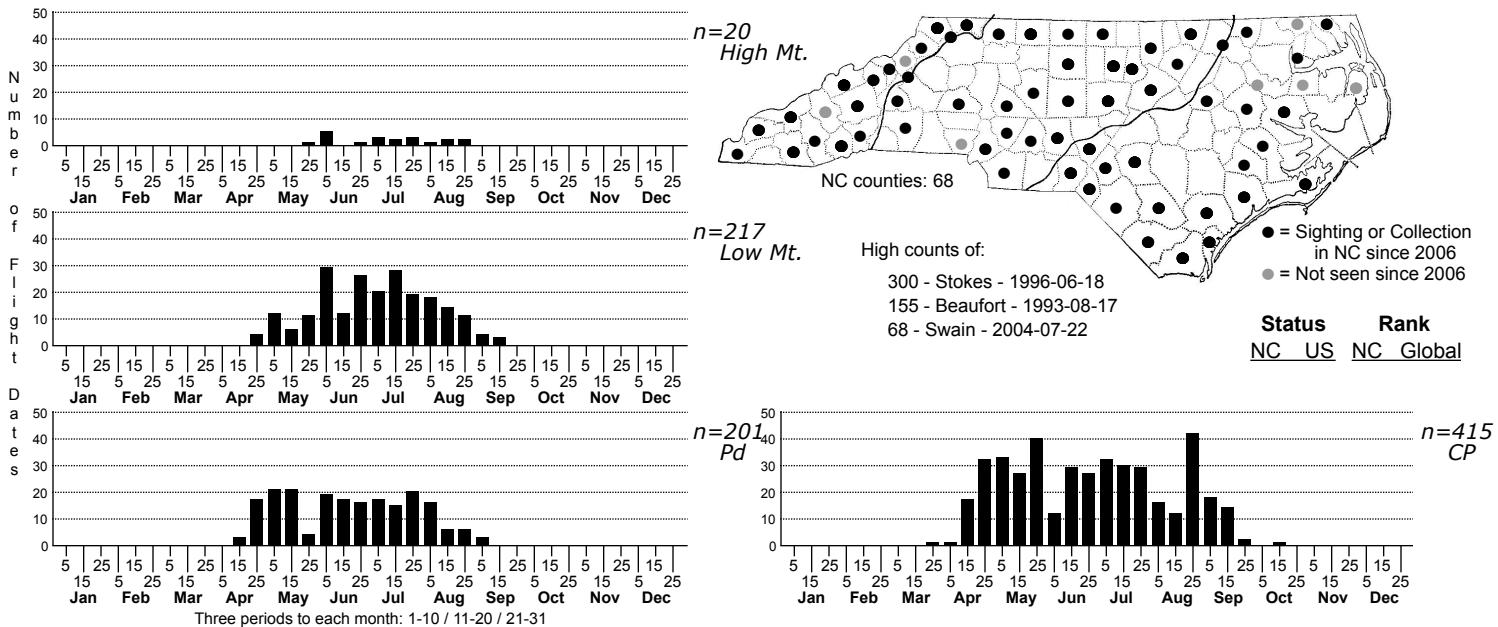


Polygrammate hebraicum Hebrew Moth



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Acronictinae TRIBE:

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: This genus contains but a single species, confined to North America and occurring throughout North Carolina.

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1954)

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

ID COMMENTS: With its snow white ground color overlaid with black markings, this boldly patterned species should not be confused with any other member of our fauna.

DISTRIBUTION: One of our most widely distributed species, occurring from the Barrier Islands to the High Mountains

FLIGHT COMMENT: They can be caught throughout the growing season and distinct broods are not apparent

HABITAT: Occupies virtually all wooded habitats in the state. Occurs in deeply flooded brownwater swamps along the lower Roanoke, where Water Tupelo (*Nyssa aquatica*) is the most likely host plant. In the streamheads of the Sandhills as well as other blackwater or peatland habitats in the Coastal Plain, it is probably associated with Swamp Tupelo (*N. biflora*). Over most of the state, however, it probably feeds on Blackgum (*N. sylvatica*), which occurs over a wide range of mesic to dry forests and woodlands.

FOOD: Larvae are stenophagous, feeding solely on tupelo (*Nyssa* spp.). Based on the wide range of hydric to dry habitats it occupies, it probably feeds on all three species of *Nyssa* found in North Carolina, but has so far only been confirmed on Blackgum (*N. sylvatica*).

OBSERVATION METHODS: Adults come commonly to lights but seem to be rarely attracted to bait. We have no records of their visiting flowers.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S5]

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

COMMENTS: As a single entity, Polygrammate is one of our most widespread and abundant species, occurring in a broad range of habitat types. It thus seems very secure within the state. However, there is a need to carefully compare the life histories of populations in the Blue Ridge and Coastal Plain in order to distinguish whether or not there is simply a deep split in the barcode sequences or whether we have two almost identical species which geographically replace each other. If so, more surveys will likely be needed to determine the distribution and habitats of each form before their individual conservation statuses can be determined.