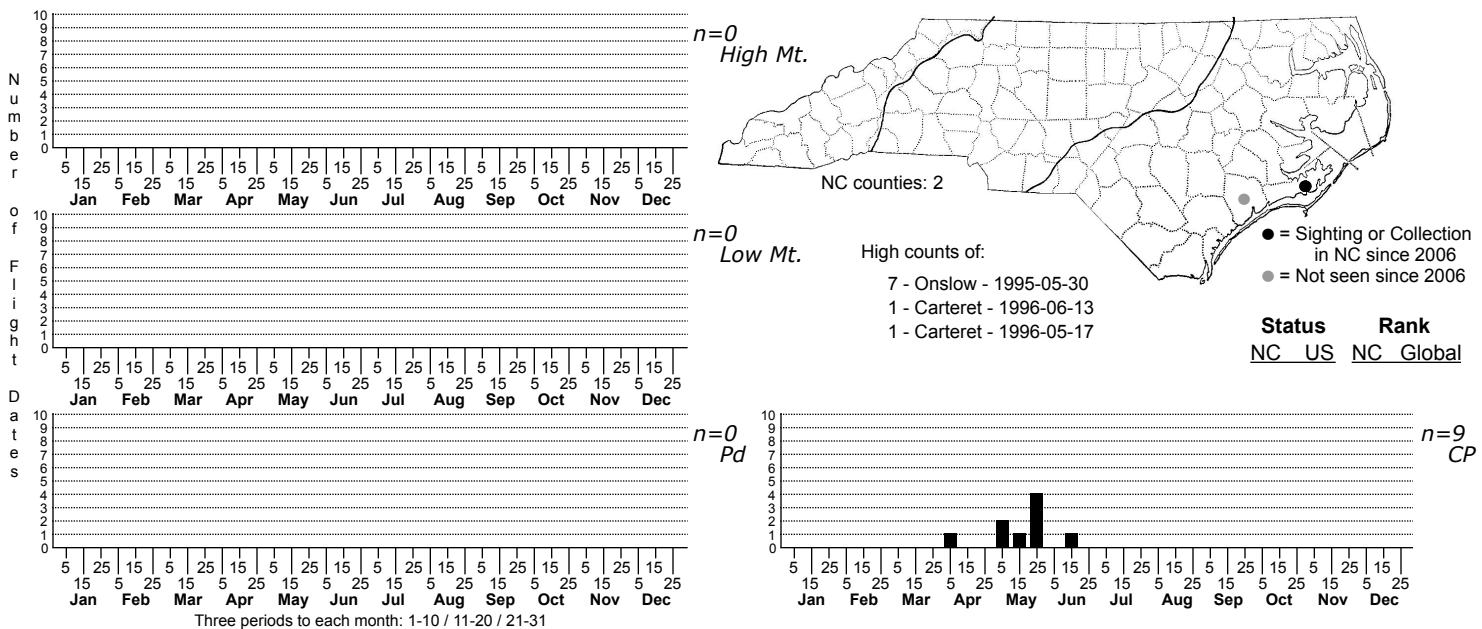


Photedes enervata Many-lined Photedes



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Noctuinae TRIBE: Apameini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of seven species currently placed in this genus that occur in North America north of Mexico (Lafontaine and Schmidt, 2010), two of which have been recorded in North Carolina. Information based primarily on molecular data and/or genitalia indicate that the genus that this species currently is assigned to is misapplied, but the correct genus to which it should be assigned has not been determined by experts. The genus name is sometimes placed in quotation marks (<i>"Photedes" enervata</i>) to indicate the misapplied name.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1954)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: Published descriptions of this moth are scarce, but Forbes (1954) included it in his key for Hypocoena despite the fact that he considered it a southern species that rarely, if at all, occurred within the geographic area covered by his monographs. He described it as "evenly dull brown, or fuscous, normally somewhat reddish, the darker veins hardly distinct." This description agrees with photographs of specimens on MPG and BOLD, some of which show more distinctly darkened veins, a bicolored discal spot, a dotted postmedian, and a terminal row of dark spots. Some also show a dark dash that in some cases reaches the postmedian line. Hindwings are tan or off-white. The more strongly marked individuals resemble Leucanias, especially *L. incognita*. Leucanias, however, can be distinguished by the hair on the surface of the eyes, which is absent in Chortodes. Leucanias also have pale veins, with less conspicuous dark lines in between.

DISTRIBUTION: Restricted to the Tidewater zone of Coastal Plain

FLIGHT COMMENT: Possibly univoltine. All of our records come from the spring, from April to June

HABITAT: Our records all come from the vicinity of salt marshes.

FOOD: Larvae are possibly monophagous, feeding on Saltmarsh Cordgrass (<i>Sporobolus alterniflorus = Spartina alterniflora</i>) (Ferguson, 1975).

OBSERVATION METHODS: Comes to light to some extent, although Forbes (1954) mentions that they may not come as freely as other genera, accounting for some of their scarcity in collections.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G4 SU

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

COMMENTS: We have very few records for this species but its habitat and host plants are abundant along the coast and this species, as Forbes (1954) suspected, may be simply under collected using light traps. More thorough surveys of salt marsh habitats need to be conducted -- especially if larval surveys can be done -- before we can accurately assess the conservation status of this species in North Carolina.