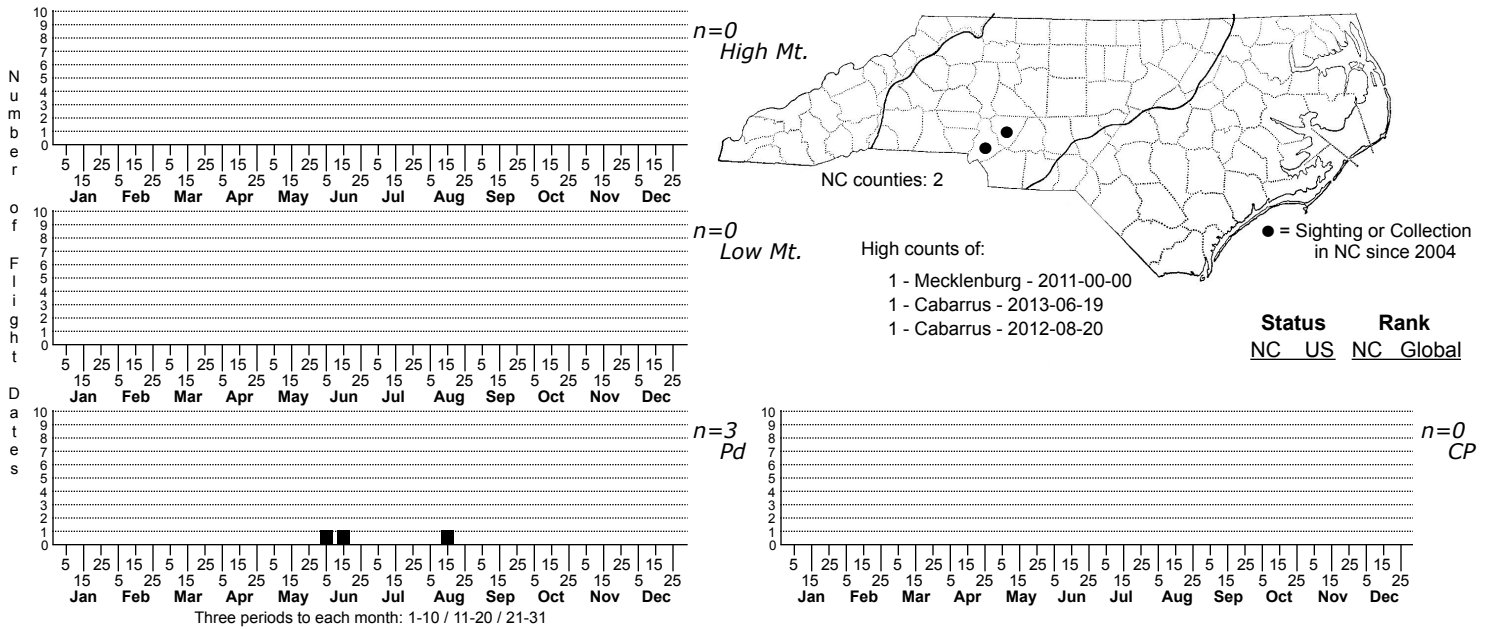


Ipimorpha pleonectusa Even-lined Sallow



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Noctuinae TRIBE: Xylenini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of three species in this genus that occur in North America north of Mexico (Lafontaine and Schmidt, 2010) and the only one that has been recorded in North Carolina

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

ONLINE PHOTOS: MPG, BugGuide, BAMONA, BOLD

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1954)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Forbes (1954)

ID COMMENTS: A medium-sized pale grayish to brownish Noctuid with contrasting pale lines. The ground color is even across the wing and varies from pale gray to yellowish-brown to reddish-brown. The basal, antemedian, postmedian, and subterminal lines are all fine, pale, and even, with the antemedian and postmedian the strongest and usually fairly straight. The orbicular, claviform, and reniform spots are large, filled with a darker shade than the ground color, and outlined with the same pale color as the lines. Hindwings are a lighter fuscous (Forbes, 1954). Forbes noted a resemblance to *Cosmia* species, but in *calami* -- our only species in that genus -- the antemedian is much more oblique and the postmedian more sinuous than in *pleonectusa*; the claviform is also missing in *calami*, which is also smaller than *pleonectusa*.

DISTRIBUTION: Our only known record comes from the western Piedmont

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: The one North Carolina record for this species comes from a site that contains an extensive floodplain. However, the presence of *Populus* within this area is unclear.

FOOD: Stenophagous, feeding on Aspen and other poplars (*Populus* spp.) (Forbes, 1954; Wagner et al., 2011)

OBSERVATION_METHODS: Comes to light to some extent. Wagner et al. (2011) also state that it comes to sugar baits.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S2S3]

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

COMMENTS: The population of this species in North Carolina -- if it is, in fact, resident where discovered -- is highly disjunct -- this species is primarily northern in its distribution, with the nearest records to ours probably those in the Ohio Valley (see Moth Photographers Group Website). If *Ipimorpha* were found extensively across the state, we would expect to have found it in the brownwater floodplains in the Coastal Plain, which have been sampled for moths in several intensive surveys. Elsewhere within the state, however, *Populus*-containing habitats have been poorly surveyed, and it is possible that *Ipimorpha* could occur more widely. Until such surveys are conducted, we do not have enough information on the distribution, abundance, and habitat affinities of this species in order to estimate its conservation status within the state.