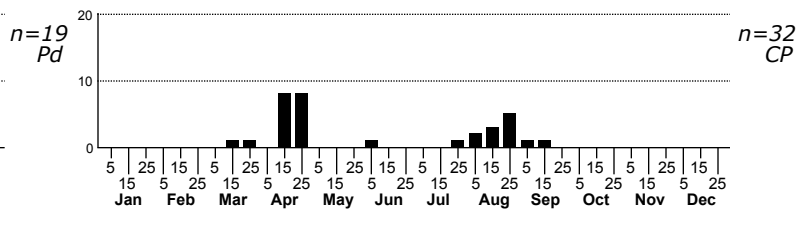
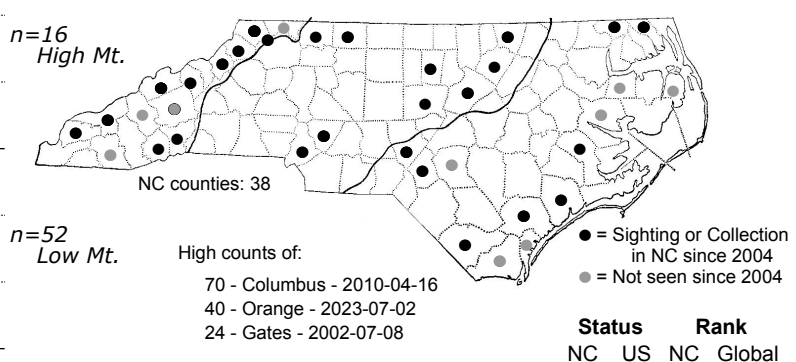
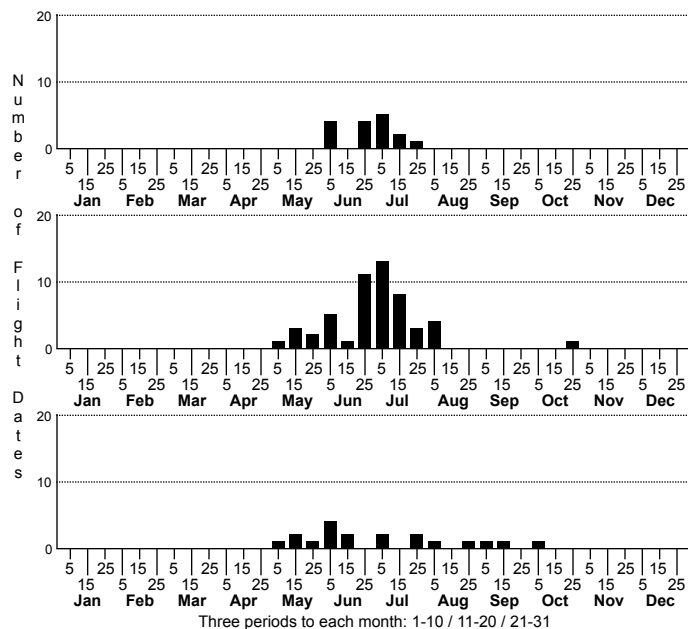


Phosphila turbulenta Turbulent Phosphila Moth



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Noctuinae TRIBE: Phosphilini

TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: A New World genus of some 8 species of which 3 occur in the United States and 2 in North Carolina. Together with *Acherodoa ferraria* they are the only members of the tribe Phosphilini in our state. Placement of the tribe is uncertain (Wagner et al, 2011).

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1954)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Forbes (1954); Wagner et al. (2011)

ID COMMENTS: A reddish or wood-brown Noctuid with a pale reniform and a thick, dark anal dash. The subterminal area and the area between the reniform and the postmedian are often somewhat paler than the basal areas of the wing. A small streak of white is located close to the base of the wing along the inner margin.

DISTRIBUTION: Found throughout the state.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Sightings are made usually during a window of several weeks in the spring and late summer. The species appears to have but two broods in the Coastal Plain and perhaps only one in the upper mountains.

HABITAT: In the Piedmont and Coastal Plain, our records come wet forested areas, including floodplain forests and pond and lakeshores. In the Mountains, we also have records from upland habitats, primarily mesic coves and stands of northern hardwoods.

FOOD: This species also feeds on *Smilax* and its specific preferences unknown. No doubt the species plays a role in controlling the always invasive green vines but this has not been studied.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: Adults respond to light but we know of no records of them at bait or flowers. They often occur at lights in groups, perhaps because the caterpillars are gregarious and thus their development synchronized. The gregarious caterpillars are memorable and very obvious when found.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 [S5]

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

COMMENTS: Widespread and occupies a wide range of fairly common habitats. Appears to be secure within the state.