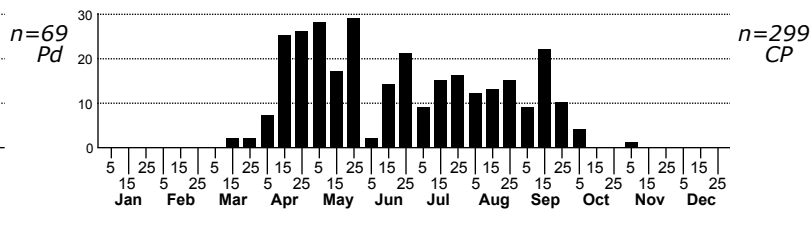
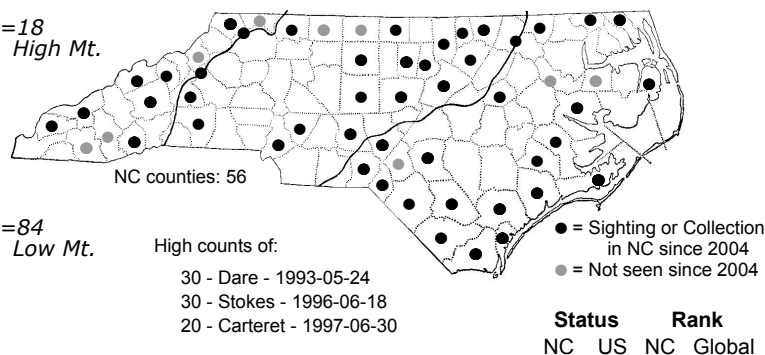
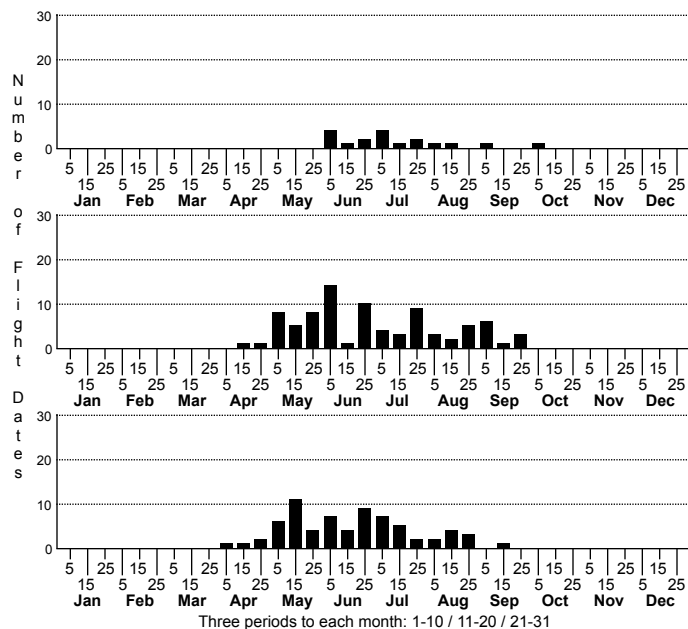


## *Phosphila miselioides* Spotted Phosphila Moth



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: The greenish color pattern will differentiate this species from most other moderately-sized Noctuids. Two forms are found, with and without a large white reniform spot. Freshly emerged individuals are quite striking.

DISTRIBUTION: Found statewide, from the Barrier Islands to the High Mountains.

FLIGHT COMMENT: There are probably three broods in the Coastal Plain and two in most mid and low mountain regions. The broods seem to be drawn out so that one can expect adults almost any time from April through September.

HABITAT: Found wherever the plant genus *Smilax* occurs, including dry maritime dunes, scrub, and forests; peatlands; Longleaf Pine savannas and flatwoods; floodplain forests; and mesic forests, including Cove Forests and Northern Hardwoods in the Mountains.

FOOD: *Smilax* is the foodplant but we do not know which species are selected and which are not. The role this species plays in controlling the invasive green vine would be a good study subject.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: Adults are attracted to light but we are unaware of any reports of them visiting flowers. They do come to bait at times.

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.