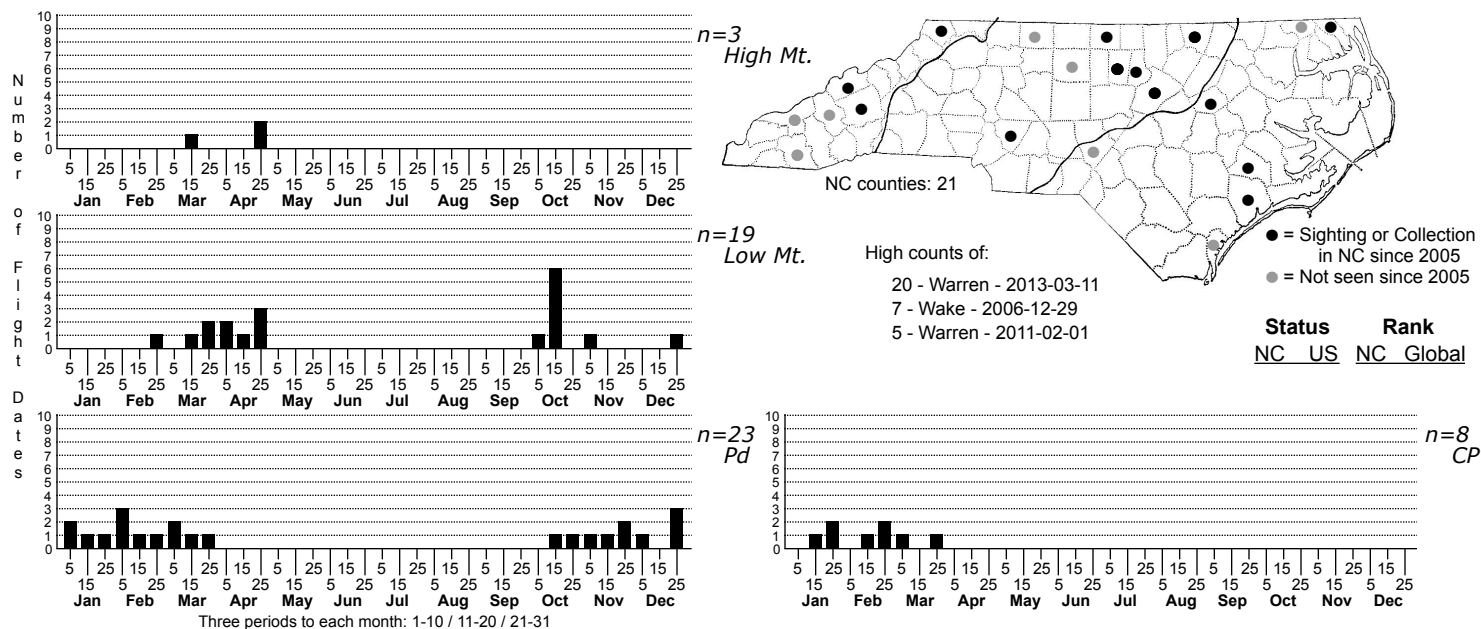


## *Eupsilia vinulenta* Straight-toothed Sallow



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Noctuinae TRIBE: Xylenini

TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS: A genus of the Northern Hemisphere with some 17 described species, including 8 in North America, with several more about to be described. North Carolina has 6 described and 1 undescribed species, some of which are extremely similar in wing pattern.

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: The commonest species found so far in the Piedmont and Coastal Plain areas. Much like a less boldly marked and larger *E. tristigmata*. Although *E. schweitzeri* is confused with *E. cirripalea* in the northern part of its range, in our area it is more easily mistaken for *E. vinulenta*. The reniform can be concolorous, yellowish or white. Sexes are similar. Descriptions of *Eupsilia* are available online at <http://mothphotographersgroup.msstate.edu/MothTalkDownload/MothTalk010.htm>

DISTRIBUTION: Over much of the state, this is the most common member of the genus.

FLIGHT COMMENT: They fly with the other species from October into early April and likely hibernate during periods of extended cold. Coastal Plain populations generally do not begin flying until December. We have noticed them particularly active during and after light rain.

HABITAT: The caterpillars have been found on a wide variety of plants and adults are taken in woodlands and backyards throughout the Piedmont and Coastal Plain areas. Accordingly, we are unable to suggest a specific habitat though it is likely there is one.

FOOD: Larvae have been reported from many woody plants, especially Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*). Wagner et al. (2011) specifically list maple (*Acer*), hackberry (*Celtis*), hawthorn (*Crataegus*), walnut (*Juglans*), sycamore (*Platanus*), cherry (*Prunus*), and oak (*Quercus*). The larva is like other *Eupsilia* species and cannot be recognized with certainty (see more in Wagner et al., 2011). This will be the most likely caterpillar encountered in most areas.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: Adults readily come to bait and have been collected in light traps.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S3S4]

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

COMMENTS: This species is widespread in North Carolina, feeds on common host plants, and occupies a wide range of habitats. Consequently, we regard it as secure within the state.