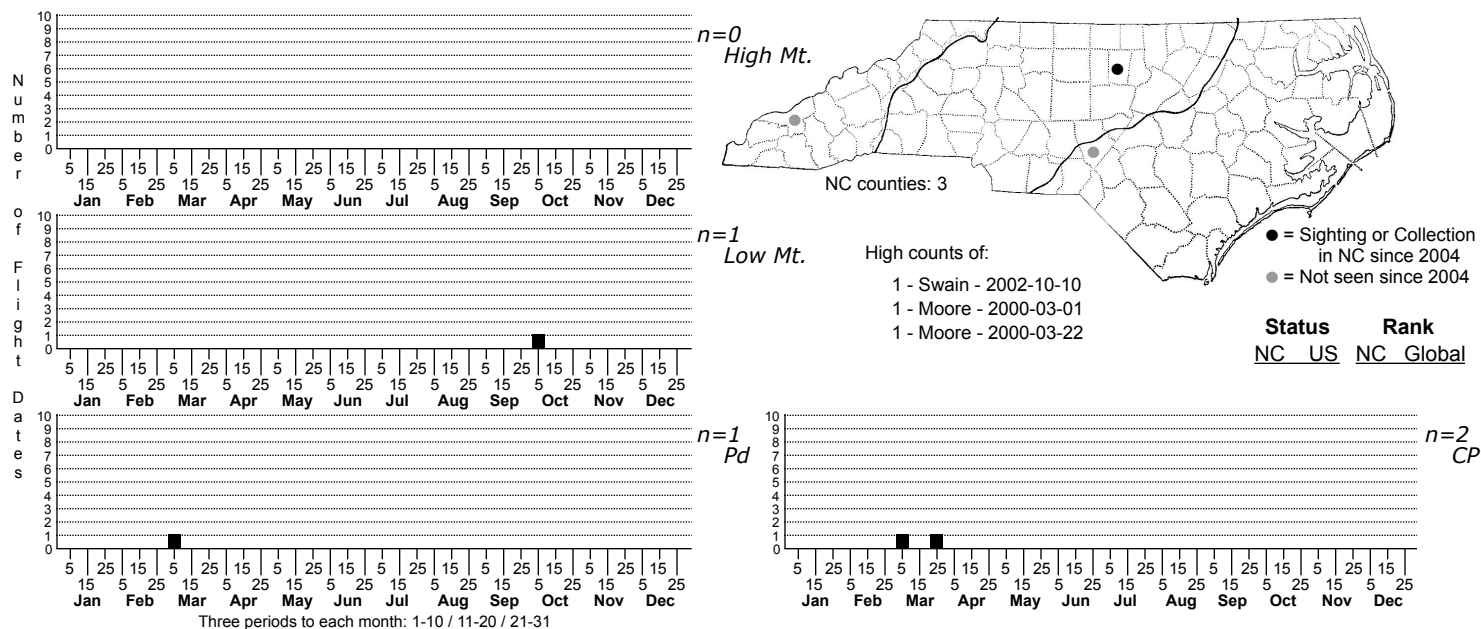


## *Eupsilia sidus* Sidus Sallow



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)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1954; descriptions of *Eupsilia* are available online at <http://mothphotographersgroup.msstate.edu/MothTalkDownload/MothTalk010.htm>)

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

ID COMMENTS: This species and *E. cirripalea* can usually be distinguished from the remaining species because their pattern is plain, with many of the cross wing lines obscure compared to the other species, but differentiating them from each other is an art at best. The crenulations at the end of the forewing are smaller in *E. sidus* than in *E. cirripalea* but one must have a very fresh specimen to see the small difference. The reniform can be concolorous, yellowish or white, however, in this species it appears to be slightly smaller and rounder than in *E. cirripalea*. The forks on the scales in the middle of the forewing are curled at their ends in this species. Best determined by barcodes or dissections.

DISTRIBUTION: Expected throughout the piedmont and mountains but perhaps limited to drier habitats. It appears to be much less common than *E. cirripalea*.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Adults are probably on the wing from mid October through March with hibernation when the cold is bitter, but all of our positive records are from February and March in Warren County.

HABITAT: Found in dry wooded areas but few positive records in the state and thus preferences in habitat unknown.

FOOD: Wagner et al (2011) reported larvae from Lowbush Blueberry, Sand Hickory and Oak, which would indicate dry, probably acidic habitats. As with most species in the genus, adults have rarely been barcoded or dissected and thus records are likely mixed.

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

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [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 confirmed records for this species, which may be due at least partly to its late season flights. More surveys need to be conducted in the late fall in order to determine the distribution, abundance, host plants, and habitat associations; until such data are available, we cannot determine its conservation status.