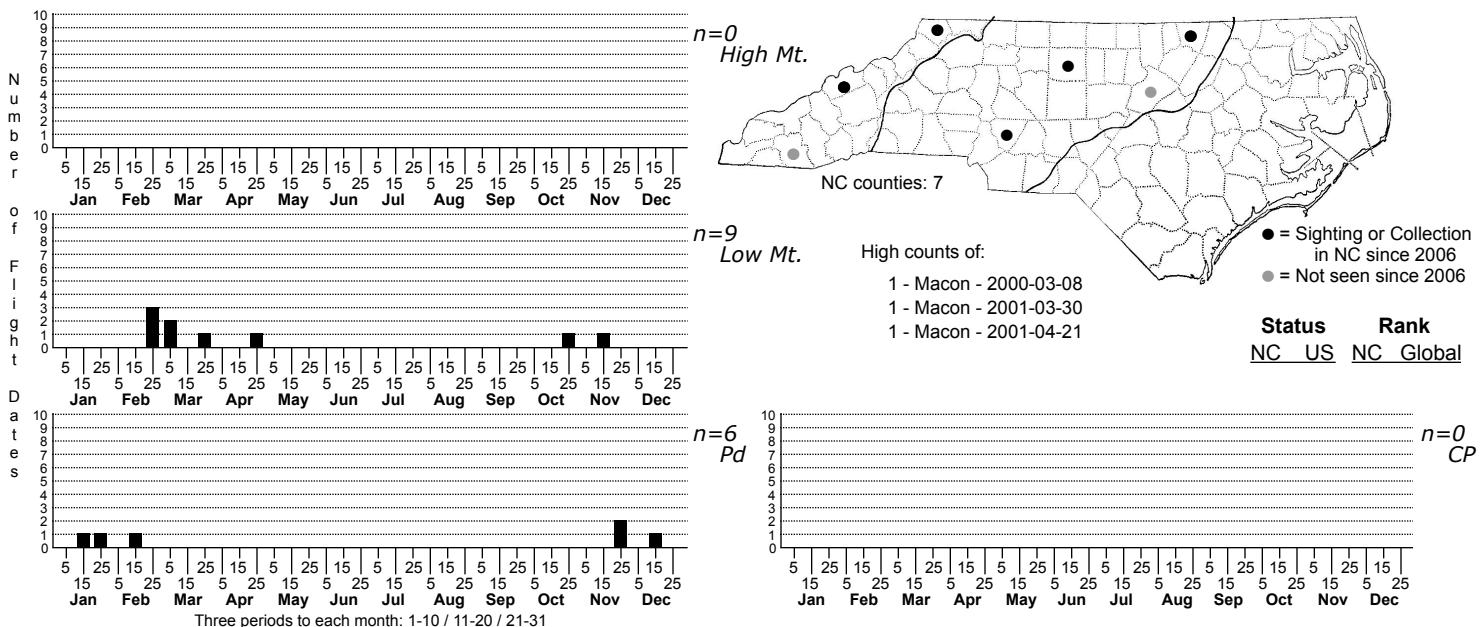


Eupsilia tristigmata Three-spotted Sallow



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: One of the five species of *Eupsilia* in our area with dentate postmedian lines, *E. tristigmata* is usually recognizable by its strongly mottled orange and brown forewings (Forbes, 1954). This species, like *E. devia*, also has shorter wings and thus they appear smaller than the other species. Forbes (1954) refers to the distinct orbicular, the usually distinct claviform, and the large, kidney-shaped reniform spot with a dark shade at the ventral margin as distinctive but we have found these difficult to score in North Carolina populations. Most likely confused with *E. vinulenta*, which it overlaps only in the Piedmont area, but the shorter wings are usually obvious. Descriptions of *Eupsilia* are available online at: <http://mothphotographersgroup.msstate.edu/MothTalkDownload/MothTalk010.htm>

DISTRIBUTION: Records are mostly from the Mountains but there are also several from the eastern Piedmont.

FLIGHT COMMENT: We have records from every month from October through March but likely the species hibernates during the coldest months and awakes to fly on unusually warm days.

HABITAT: Wagner et al. (2011) list woodlands, forests, barrens, and heathlands as habitats used by this species. North Carolina records come primarily from mesic sites, including riparian forests and lakeshores.

FOOD: This species appears to prefer cherry and heath family species. Wagner et al. (2011) specifically list serviceberry (*Amelanchier*), apple (*Malus*), cherry (*Prunus*), rose (*Rosa*), blackberry (*Rubus*), mountain-ash (*Sorbus*), and blueberry (*Vaccinium*). Although there are many records from other common trees, these may refer to what captive larvae will eat and not what they select in nature. No host records exist from North Carolina.

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

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR SNR [S2S3]

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

COMMENTS: Currently, there are too few records from North Carolina to determine the distribution, abundance, host plants, and habitat affinities of this species. More surveys need to be conducted in the late fall and early spring in order to determine the conservation status of this species.