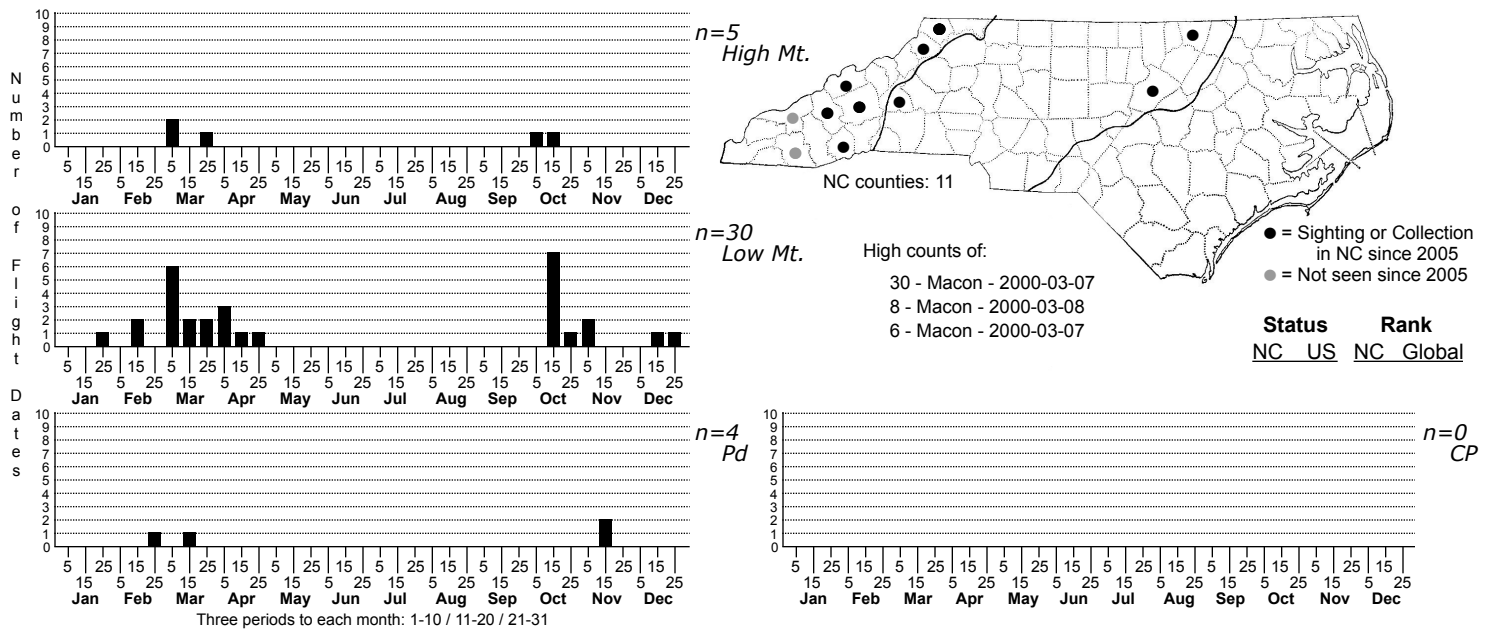


Eupsilia morrisoni Morrison's Sallow



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: Like *E. devia*, *Eupsilia morrisoni* is fairly easy to distinguish due to its fairly even, non-dentate postmedian line (Forbes, 1954). Fresh specimens are leathery-brown but worn specimens in the spring are a much faded brown or tan. The transverse lines are pale and well-defined. The antemedian is strong and runs straight across the wing, similar to most species of *Eupsilia* but not as oblique or as concave as in *E. devia*. The postmedian is even to slightly waved, especially towards the costa, but is never dentate as in the other species of brown *Eupsilia*. The straight pale line characteristic of *E. devia* that runs between the postmedian and subterminal is missing, and the subterminal is fairly weak and irregular. The reniform is a narrow yellow lunule (or with no filling), and has a dark dot at the lower end. The sexes are similar. Descriptions of *Eupsilia* are available online at: <http://mothphotographersgroup.msstate.edu/MothTalkDownload/MothTalk010.htm>

DISTRIBUTION: Occurs throughout the Mountains but has also been found close to the Fall-line in the eastern Piedmont

FLIGHT COMMENT: Occurring commonly from mid-October to early April throughout the mountains but undoubtedly hibernating through the coldest months.

HABITAT: Most of our records come from stands of upland hardwoods growing on dry slopes and ridges. A few also come from wet-to-mesic riparian or lakeshore forests.

FOOD: Larvae are reportedly widely polyphagous. Wagner et al. (2011) specifically list Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*), Wild Strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*), Sweet-gale (*Myrica gale*), cherry (*Prunus* spp.), Bear Oak (*Quercus ilicifolia*), elm (*Ulmus* spp.), and *Viburnum*.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: Adults readily come to bait and they also appear to come fairly well to blacklight traps.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR 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 ranges across the entire length of the Mountains in North Carolina and at least sparingly in the Piedmont. With its wide range of host plants and use of a fairly broad range of forest habitat types, it appears to be secure within the state.