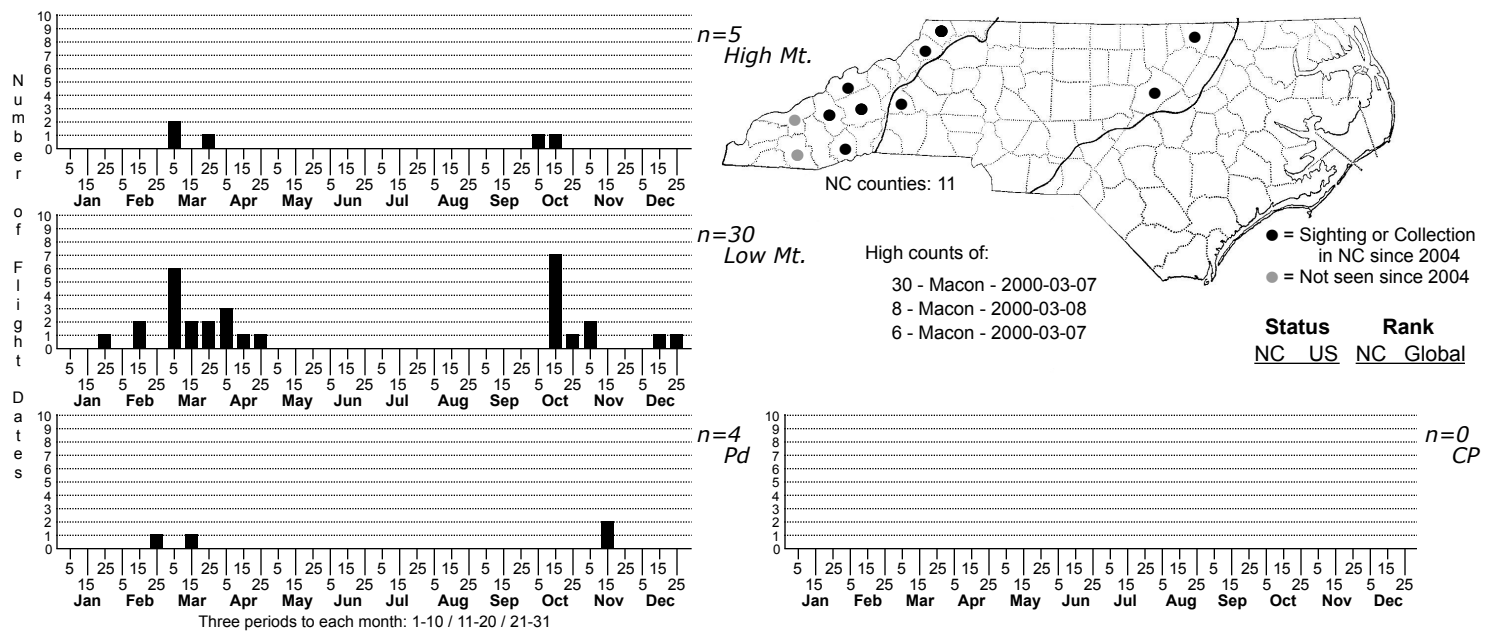


## *Eupsilia morrisoni* Morrison's Sallow



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; descriptions of *Eupsilia* are available online at <http://mothphotographersgroup.msstate.edu/MothTalkDownload/MothTalk010.htm>)

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 *devia*. The postmedian is even to slightly waved, especially towards the costa, but is never dentate as in the other species of brown *Eupsilias*. The straight pale line characteristic of *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.

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: Widely polyphagous on woody plants but preferences have not been documented anywhere in its range. Wagner et al (2011) list Scrub Oak, Sugar Maple, Viburnum, Sweet Gale and Wild Strawberry but no preferences documented.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: Adults readily come to bait and they also appear to come fairly well to blacklight traps.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S4S5]

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.