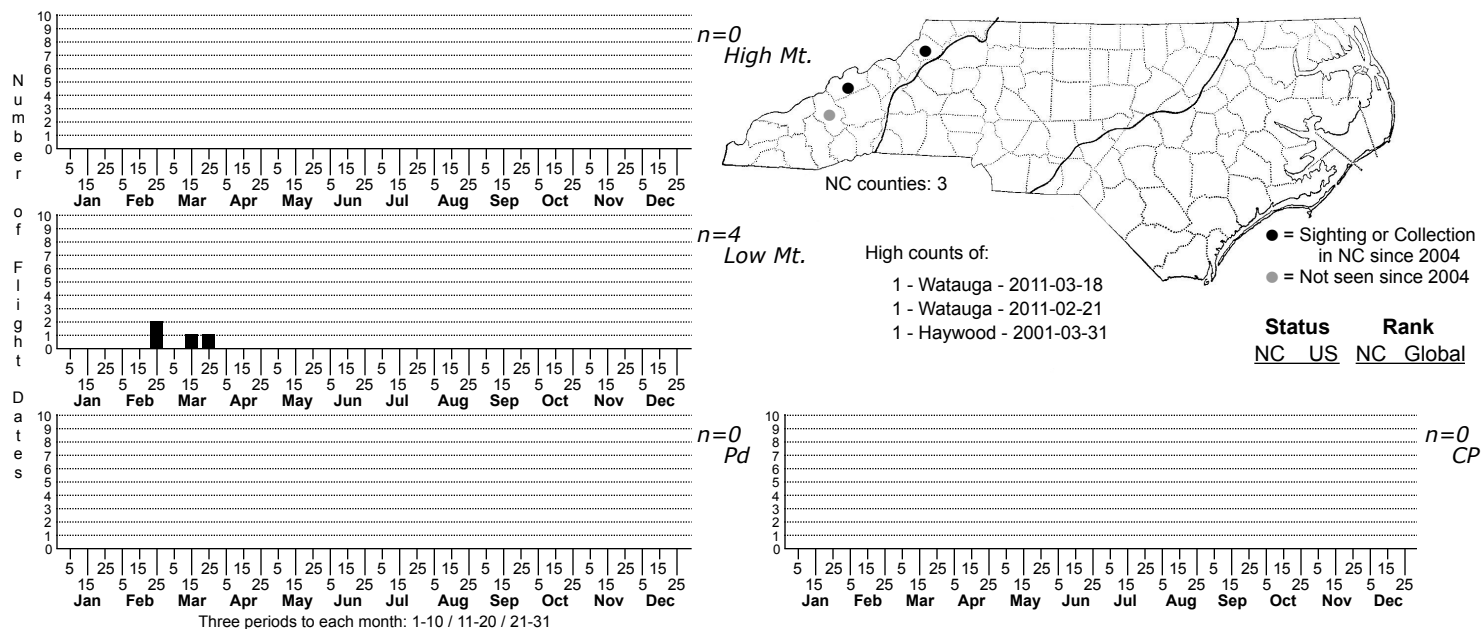


Eupsilia devia Lost Sallow



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: Adults easily distinguished by their liliac-brown color, with the basal area of the forewings frosted with grey. The transverse lines are pale and even, not dentate as in other species of *Eupsilia* except for *morrisoni*. The antemedian is strong and slightly concave. The postmedian is fairly weak and slightly sinuous and followed by a much stronger, nearly straight line that lies about half-way between the postmedian and subterminal lines (Forbes, 1954). The subterminal line, like the postmedian, is usually fairly weak and sinuous. Sexes are similar.

DISTRIBUTION: This species is primarily northern, but extends to Georgia in the Southern Appalachians. All of our records come from the Mountains, but the habitats and host plants used by this species are not confined to that region.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Should be active late in the fall before hibernating but collecting dates from Haywood and Watauga counties are February and March.

HABITAT: Wagner et al. (2011) list fields, grasslands, wet meadows, marshes, and open woodlands as habitats used by this species. Our records come from wet-mesic, semi-rural sites in the Mountains.

FOOD: Larvae feed on Asters and Goldenrods and form shelters by silking together leaves near the terminal shoot (Wagner et al, 2011).

OBSERVATION_METHODS: Adults readily come to bait and have been collected in light traps, usually as singleton. The apparent rarity of this species may reflect a reluctance to respond to ultraviolet light.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S1S3

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

COMMENTS: We have only a few records for this species, which may be a disjunct from the North. However, habitats and host plants do not appear to be limiting factors and more late and early season sampling needs to be done before its conservation status in North Carolina can be determined. Bait sampling and/or use of Mercury-vapor lighting need to be employed rather than sampling solely through use of 15 Watt blacklights.