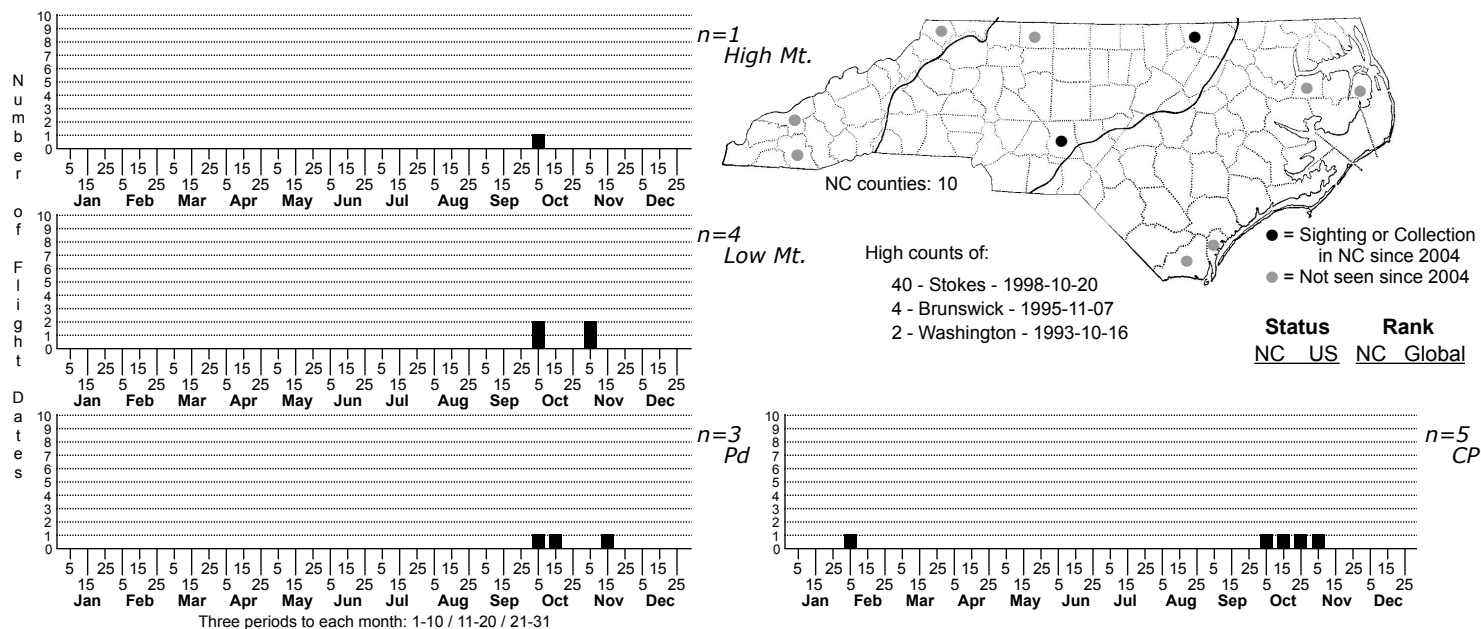


# *Metaxaglaea semitaria* Footpath Sallow



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Noctuinae TRIBE: Xylenini

TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS: One of five species in this genus that occur in North America, all of which have been recorded in North Carolina.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Schweitzer (1979)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Schweitzer (1979); Wagner et al. (2011)

ID COMMENTS: *Metaxaglaea semitaria*, *viatica*, and *violacea* are all medium-large Noctuids with similar wing patterns: dentate postmedian and antemedian lines; large, red-encircled orbicular and reniform spots; and a contrastingly dark band between the postmedian and the subterminal lines. Externally, they differ primarily in color, which can be subtle and highly dependent on the lighting conditions. *Semitaria* is usually the brightest of these three, with more of a yellowish, tawny, or orange-brown ground color (see Schweitzer, 1979, for details).

DISTRIBUTION: Probably occurs statewide, with records existing from the Barrier Islands as well as the High Mountains.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Univoltine, with adults flying from early October to January.

HABITAT: Almost all of our records come from fairly dry, upland stands of hardwoods, but we also have at least one record from Pond Pine Woodlands (a peatland forest) and a few from riparian habitats in the Coastal Plain.

FOOD: Possibly feeding mainly on blueberry (*Vaccinium* spp.), but also feed to some extent on other species in captivity, including oaks and members of the Rosaceae (Schweitzer, 1979; Wagner et al., 2011).

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: Like other *Metaxaglaeas*, this species appears to come well to both blacklights and bait.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 [S5?]

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

COMMENTS: Although we have relatively few records for this species, that is probably due to its late flight season and possible confusion with other members of this genus. It appears to be using common host plants in common types of habitats and thus appears to be secure within the state.