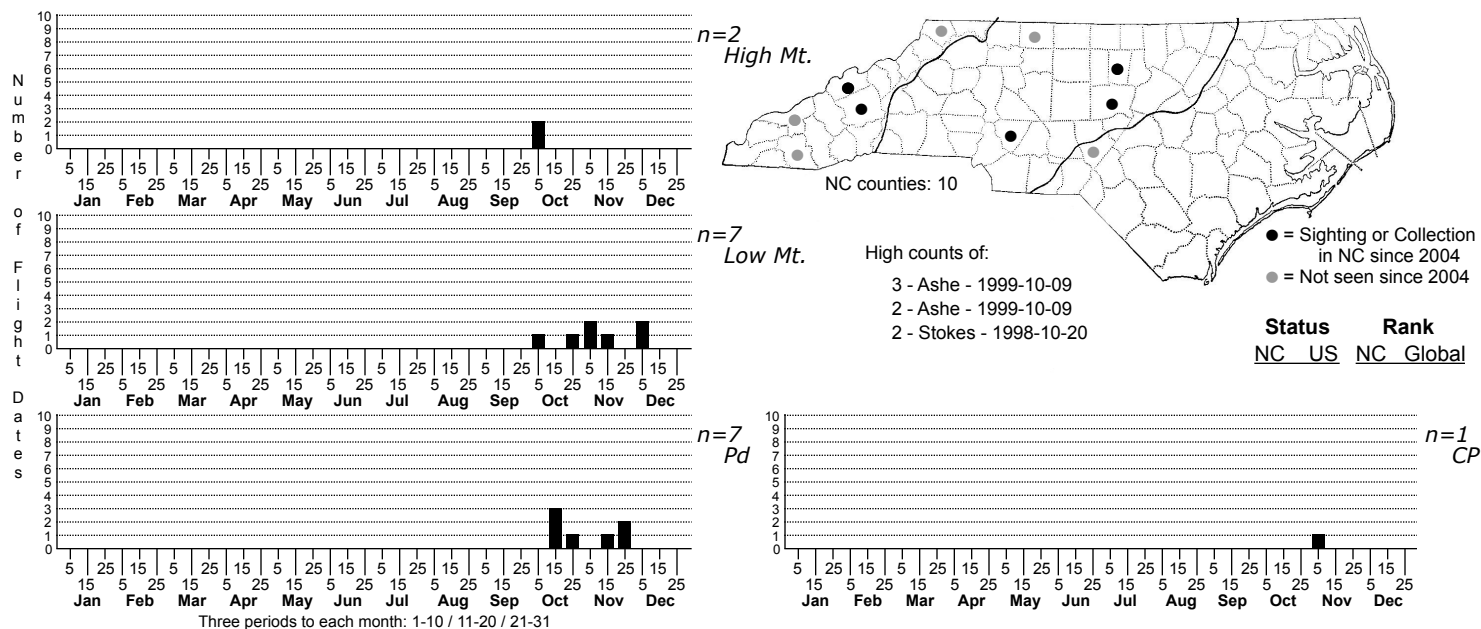


## *Epiglaea decliva* Sloping Sallow



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Noctuinae TRIBE: Xylenini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: This genus contains two species found principally in the Eastern United States and in North Carolina. The two species are not closely related and *E. decliva* will eventually be moved to another genus.

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: A medium-large brown Noctuid, similar in size, color, and pattern to *Metaxaglaea* species but usually larger and more uniformly leathery-looking. Distinguished by a higher, triangular, knife-edged crest on the thorax (Forbes, 1952); in *Metaxaglaea*, the thoracic crest is relatively flat or inconspicuous. The orbicular and reniform both have a yellow border in *decliva* but lack the outer red line found in *Metaxaglaea*. The postmedian is more strongly incurved at the costa in *decliva* and the subterminal is usually not darker than the rest of the wing. In *decliva*, the postmedian is double, with the outer part consisting of a chain of dots or wedges; in *E. apiata*, the postmedian is single, dark, and continuous.

DISTRIBUTION: Appears to be restricted to the Piedmont and the Low Mountains, but we have one record from Weymouth Woods State Natural Area, located in Fall-line Sandhills.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Univoltine, with our records coming from October and November.

HABITAT: Our records come primarily from dry-mesic upland stands of hardwoods.

FOOD: Reportedly a general feeder on shrubs and small trees. Wagner et al. (2011) specifically list maple (*Acer*), buckeye (*Aesculus*), apple (*Malus*), cherry (*Prunus*), oak (*Quercus*), and *Viburnum*. We do not have any host records from North Carolina.

OBSERVATION METHODS: Adults come to light and should respond to bait but we cannot find any data to support that. Because our *Epiglaea* are on the wing earlier than most observers begin baiting, the response is largely unknown.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 [S4S5]

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

COMMENTS: Uncommon but widely distributed within various types of hardwood forests; probably secure within the state.