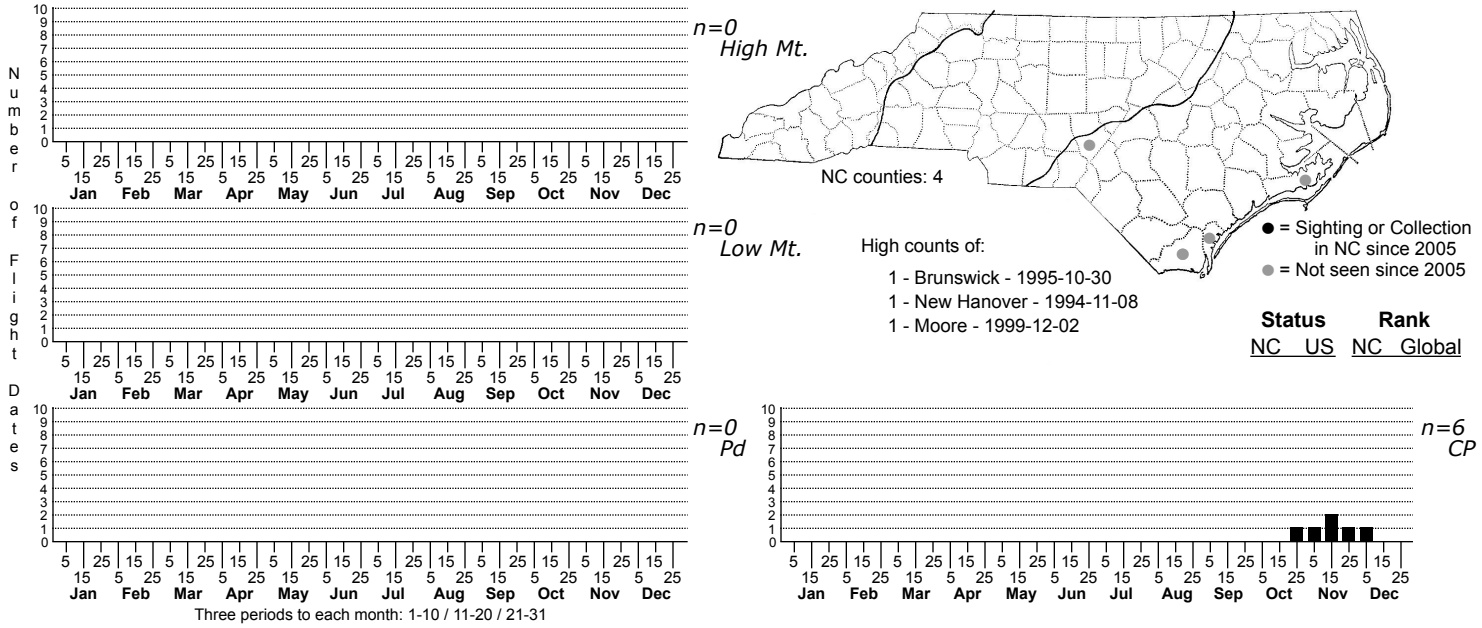
Chaetaglaea fergusoni Ferguson's Sallow



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Noctuinae TRIBE: Xylenini
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: Currently this genus of 5 species is wholly North American and three of the species are found in North Carolina. The genus is quite similar to other “glaeas” and distinguished largely by features of the male valve and aedeagus.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Not in either field guide
ONLINE PHOTOS:
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Brou (1997)
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Apparently none

ID COMMENTS: This species resembles a C. rhonda but is darker and has a reddish sheen to the outer third of the forewing; the markings also tend to be less accentuated in fergusoni and there also usually a dusting of pale gray on the basal side of the postmedian (Brou, 1997). This species is also likely to be confused with somewhat worn specimens of Xestia dilucida complex but the reniform in that species is usually more strongly marked. Sexes are similar.

DISTRIBUTION: Our records all come from the southern part of the Coastal Plain, including the Fall-line Sandhills.

FLIGHT COMMENT: On the wing from the end of October to January

HABITAT: Our records are all from Longleaf Pine habitats, including both savannas and sandhills.

FOOD: Host plants are apparently unknown.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: Known to respond to lights and probably is attracted to bait but not flowers

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G3G4 S1S2

STATE PROTECTION: Listed as Significantly Rare by the Natural Heritage Program. That designation, however, does not confer any legal protection, although permits are required to collect it on state parks and other public lands.

COMMENTS: We have only few records for this species, which appears to be quite rare throughout its entire range. At least part of the scarcity of records may be due to its flight period from the end of October to January, a period when few observations are made. However, we have far fewer records for this species than for others that fly at the same time and in the same habitats (e.g., C. tremula). More fall surveys need to be conducted to determine its distribution, host plants, and habitat associations, all of which are needed to make a more accurate diagnosis of its conservation status.