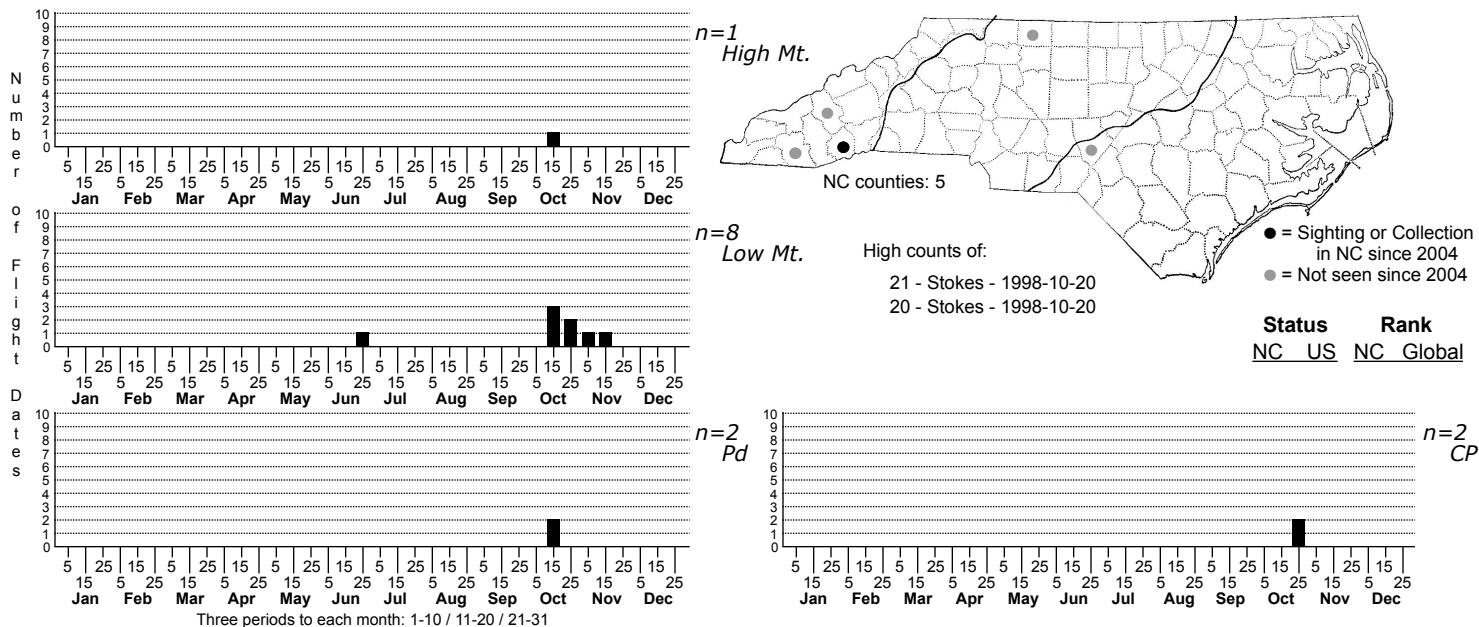


Xylotype capax Broad Sallow



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Noctuinae TRIBE: Xylenini

TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: This genus currently contains two species from North America and one reaches North Carolina. It appears to be most closely related to the genus *Platypolia*.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1954)

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

ID COMMENTS: This large, blackish gray, fall-flying Noctuid is likely to be confused only with *Sutyna privata*, which is similar in size, color, and pattern and whose flight period overlaps. The marked anal dash of *capax* is usually sufficient to identify it, and our form of *Sutyna* is also usually darker and smoother in appearance, and shows more contrast between the subterminal and terminal areas of the forewing. Sexes are similar.

DISTRIBUTION: Our records currently come from portions of the Fall-line Sandhills, Piedmont, and Mountains but the potential exists for it to be much more widespread.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Univoltine, flying in October and November. One record from June in the Great Smokey Mountains needs to be verified.

HABITAT: Wagner et al. (2003) describe this species as a shrubland associate, found in "pitch pine–scrub oak barrens and heathlands on sandplains or rocky summits and ridges." Our records are consistent with this habitat description: records from the Coastal Plain come from Longleaf Pine sandhills, while those from the Piedmont and Mountains all come from ridges and summits.

FOOD: According to Wagner et al (2011) larvae have been located on Highbush Blueberry and Cherry but captive larvae feed on a broader array of trees and shrubs.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: Adults respond at least to some extent to both light and bait.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G4 S2S3

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 of this handsome species. While this is due to some extent to its late season flight period, when collecting is normally low, it also appears to be a woodlands and barrens habitat specialist. Currently, too little is known about its distribution, abundance, and exact host plants and habitats to make an accurate assessment of its conservation status.