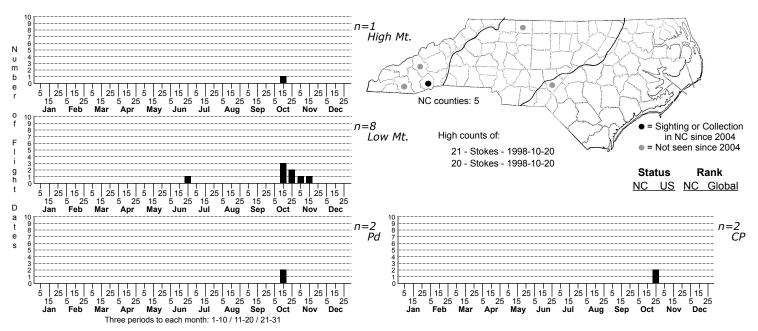
Xylotype capax Broad Sallow



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 constrast 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.