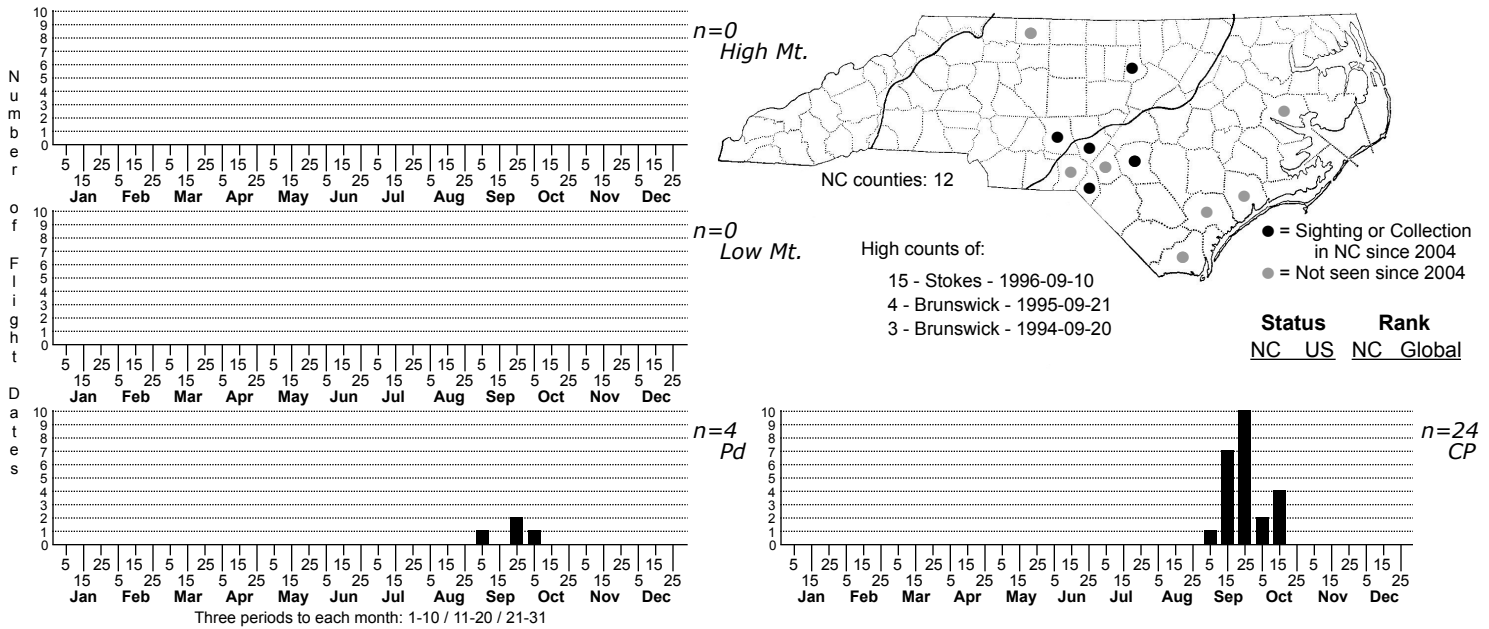


Sutyna privata Private Sallow



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Noctuinae TRIBE: Xylenini

TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: A New World genus of 3 species of which one is found in the United States and in North Carolina. The other two are from South America and may not be closely related to our species. Several North American forms of *privata* that were previously treated as separate species -- *teltowa*, *profunda*, and *tenuilinea* (see Forbes, 1954; Hodges et al., 1984) -- are now considered to be just forms of *privata* (Lafontaine and Schmidt, 2010).

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1954), as *Antytus privatus*

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

ID COMMENTS: This large, bluish-black, fall-flying Noctuid is likely to be confused only with *Xylotype capax*, which is similar in size, color, and pattern and whose flight period overlaps. Our populations of *privata* (matching Forbes' description of *teltowa*) are much darker, however, and are smoother in appearance. They also lack the dark anal dash found in *capax* and the well-defined, white subterminal line, but show more contrast between the pale grayish area located before the subterminal and the mainly dark terminal area; in *capax* these areas are primarily concolorous. Sexes are similar.

DISTRIBUTION: Found throughout the Piedmont and Coastal Plain

FLIGHT COMMENT: Apparently on the wing for about two weeks in September and October

HABITAT: Most of our records come from the Coastal Plain, primarily from Longleaf Pine sandhills and flatwoods habitats, as well as dry stands of hardwoods. Blackberry is not common in most of these habitats but Blueberries and Huckleberries are frequent. Our few records from the Piedmont also come from fairly dry woodlands, including a stand of Piedmont Longleaf Pine Forest, where Blueberries again are common.

FOOD: Although this species may be a general feeder, caterpillars have been found only on Blackberry (*Rubus* sp.) and Blueberry (*Vaccinium* sp.) (Wagner et al., 2011; Sullivan, pers. obs.).

OBSERVATION_METHODS: Comes to light but response to bait unknown. Its flight period in early September is when few people put out bait for moths.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 [S3S4]

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

COMMENTS: Most of our records come from fairly open habitats where Blueberries are common. Old Field and other disturbed habitats where Blackberries are common have not been as well-sampled, however, and their use by this species needs to be checked before its conservation status can be determined.