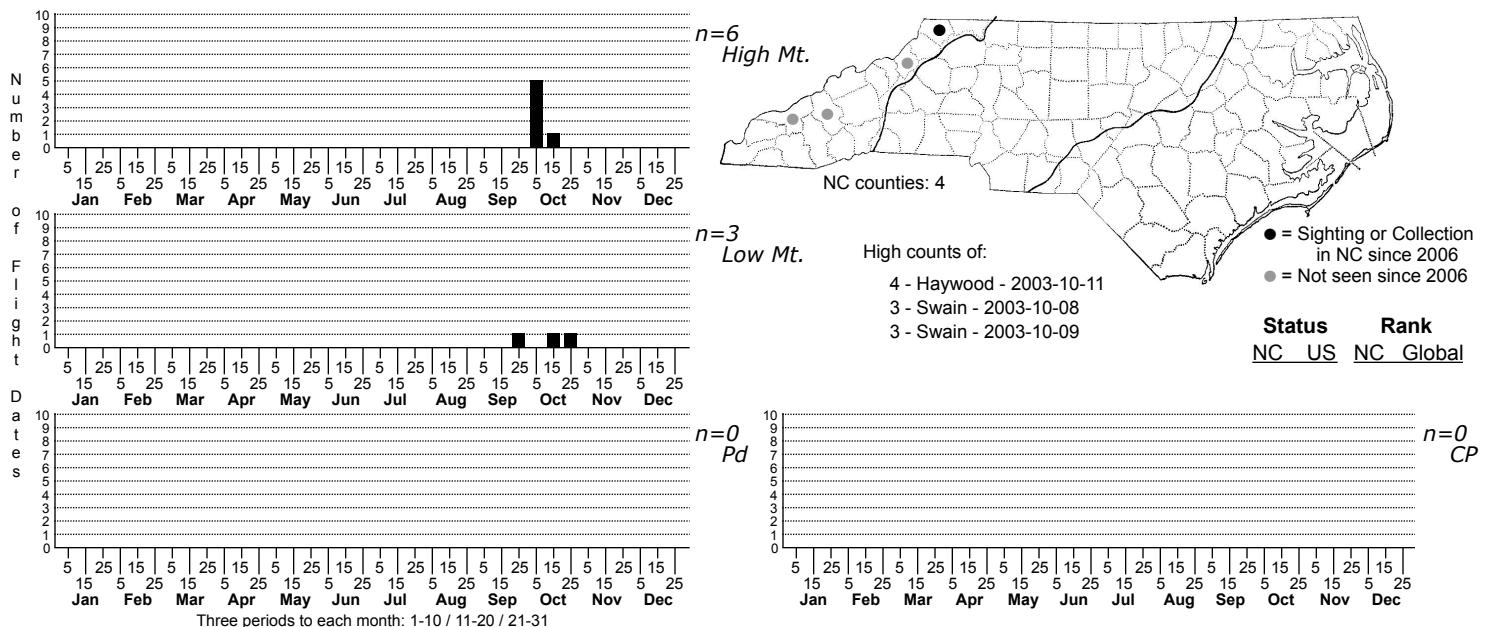


# *Pachypolia atricornis* Three-horned Sallow



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Noctuinae TRIBE: Xylenini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: This is the only member of this solely North American genus.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1954)

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

ID COMMENTS: A medium-large Sallow. The ground color of the forewings is grayish brown overlaid with an olive tint. The antemedian and postmedian lines are both highly waved, composed of a series of white lunules bordered on the medial sides with black. The subterminal line is also whit and fairly dentate, somewhat marked on the inner side with black wedges on the veins. The median area is typically darker than the basal and subterminal areas, with the orbicular and reniform both large and filled with whitish gray. A black bar runs across the lower part of the median area connecting the antemedian and postmedian lines. The hindwings are fuscous gray.

DISTRIBUTION: Restricted to the Mountains, where it occurs primarily at high elevations

FLIGHT COMMENT: Univoltine, with adults flying in the early fall

HABITAT: Most of our records come from stands of Northern Hardwoods at elevations above 4,000', with two others from slightly lower sites but similar vegetation.

FOOD: Larval hosts used in the wild have apparently not been determined, but captive reared larvae fed on maple and cherry (Wagner et al., 2011).

OBSERVATION METHODS: All of our records were obtained using blacklight traps but this species is also known to come to bait (Grehan and Parker, 1995).

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: This species is considered rare or uncommon throughout its range, the main portion of which is located in the upper Midwest, and we have only a few records for this species in the Southern Appalachians. More needs to be learned about its host plants and habitats in North Carolina before an accurate assessment can be made of its conservation needs.