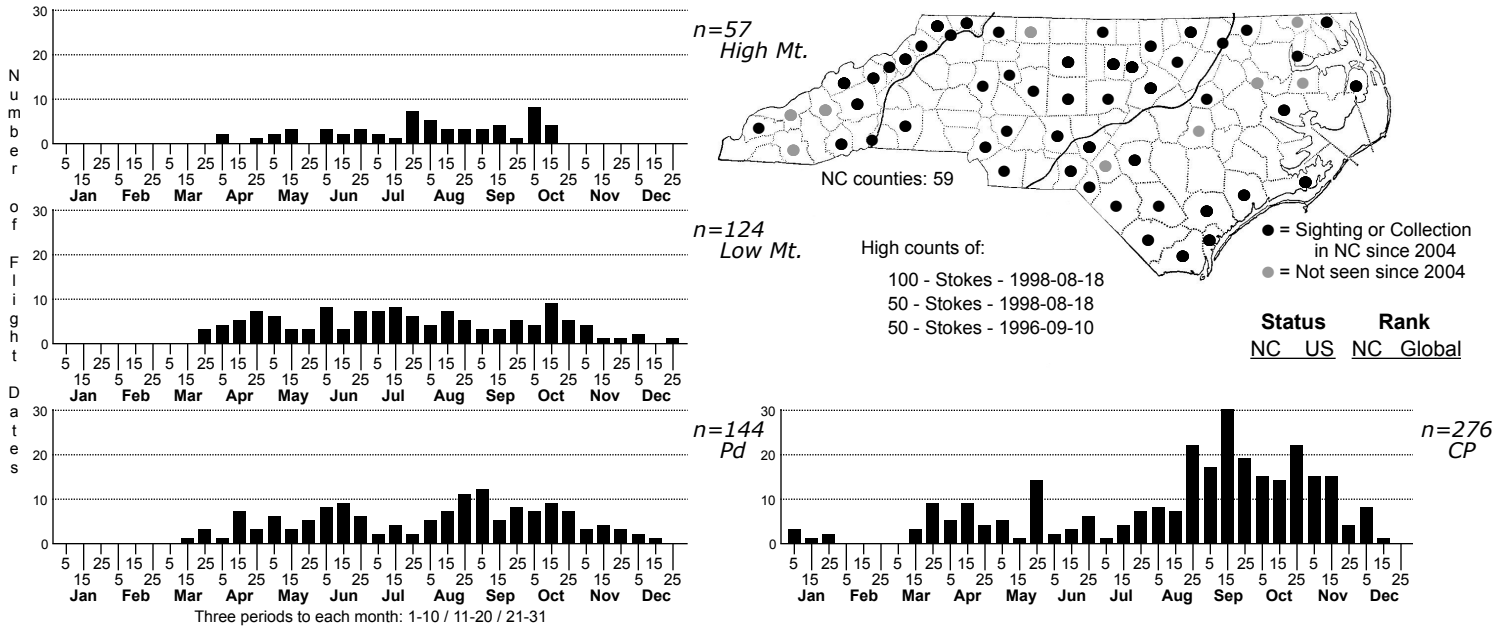
Agrotis ipsilon Ipsilon Dart Moth



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Noctuinae TRIBE: Noctuini
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: One of twenty-three species in this genus that occur in North America north of Mexico (Lafontaine and Schmidt, 2010), seven of which have been recorded in North Carolina

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984); Beadle and Leckie (2012)
ONLINE PHOTOS:
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: Our largest Dart, with a small but noticeable blackish claviform spot and an elongated dark wedge following the reniform (Forbes, 1954). This claviform contrasts with the light brown ground color of the lower portion of the wing and is not preceded by a basal dash, as found in Agrotis venerabilis and A. volubilis. The orbicular is rounded but with an elongated posterior extension; both the orbicular and reniform are distinctly darker than the dark shade that extends along the costa to the reniform. A small dark wedge may follow the reniform, similar but smaller than the mark found in A. ipsilon. The hindwings are dirty white but shaded with fuscous along the veins and towards the outer margin. A. venerabilis and A. volubilis are similar but have a basal dash and stronger claviform spots. A. ipsilon always has a dark wedge beyond the reniform that is longer and more pointed than in the other species.

DISTRIBUTION: Occurs statewide

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: This species occurs in agricultural fields, wastelands, lawns, fields, and grasslands (Wagner et al., 2011). Many of our records come from residential areas.

FOOD: Larvae are general feeders on grasses and forbs, including many types of cultivated crops (Wagner et al., 2011). Covell (1984) specifically lists corn, clover, Carolina Horsenettle, tobacco, and lettuce. We do not have any feeding records in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION_METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 S5

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

COMMENTS: