Metaxaglaea violacea Holly Sallow

n=0
High Mt.

n=8
Low Mt.

n=23
Pd

n=13
CP

Three periods to each month: 1-10 / 11-20 / 21-31

NC counties: 16

High counts of:

3 - Onslow - 2019-12-16
2 - Orange - 2006-11-28
2 - Onslow - 2019-12-25

● = Sighting or Collection in NC since 2004
● = Not seen since 2004

Status   **Rank**
NC   US   NC   Global
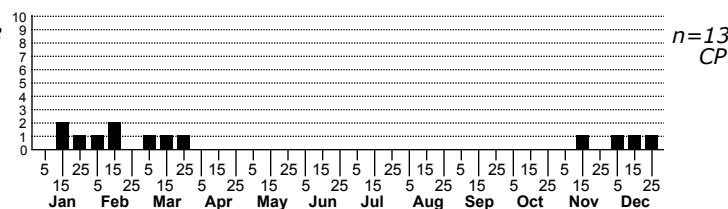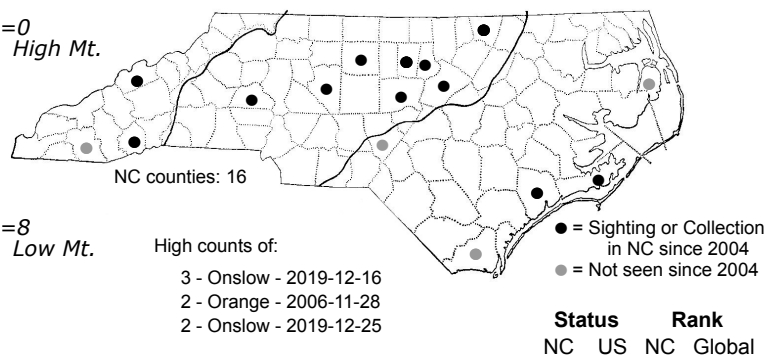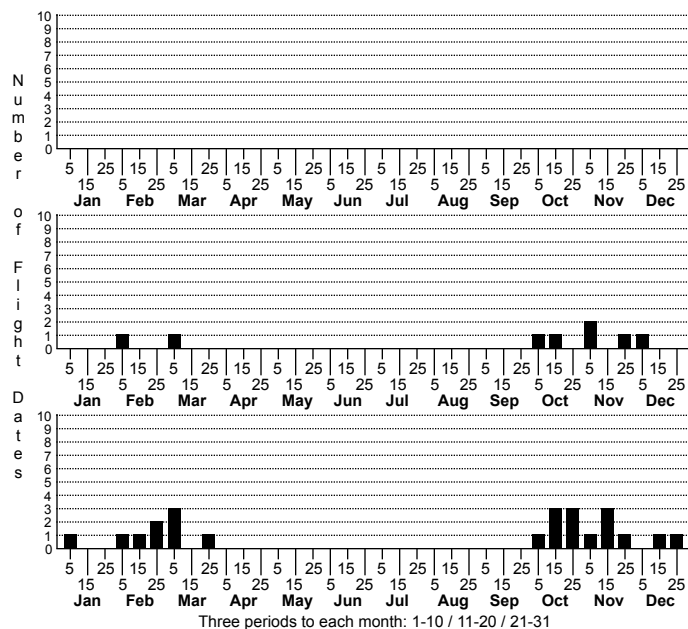
FAMILY: Noctuidae   SUBFAMILY: Noctuinae   TRIBE: Xylenini

TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: One of five species in this genus that occur in North America, all of which have been recorded in North Carolina.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Not in either field guide
ONLINE PHOTOS:
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Schweitzer (1979)
TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Schweitzer (1979); Wagner et al. (2011)

ID COMMENTS: Metaxaglaea semitaria, viatica, and violacea are all medium-large Noctuids with similar wing patterns: dentate postmedian and antemedian lines; large,red-encircled orbicular and reniform spots; and a contrastingly dark band between the postmedian and the subterminal lines. Externally, they differ primarily in color, which can be subtle and highly dependent on the lighting conditions. Violacea has a dark red-brown ground color overlain with a violet iridescence (see Schweitzer, 1979, for details).

DISTRIBUTION: Probably occurs statewide, although we currently do not have any records from the High Mountains.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Univoltine, flying from early October to late March in both the Piedmont and Coastal Plain.

HABITAT: Corresponding to the distribution of American Holly, our records for violacea come from a wide variety of forest habitats, ranging from Maritime Forests to floodplain hardwoods to mountain ridges.

FOOD: Probably stenophagous. Larvae have been found on American Holly but have also been reared on other evergreen species of Ilex (Wagner et al., 2011).

OBSERVATION_METHODS: Like other Metaxaglaeas, this species appears to come well to both blacklights and bait.

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: Although we still have relatively few confirmed records for this species, it appears to occur across the state, following the distribution of its common host plant. It thus seems relatively secure within the state.