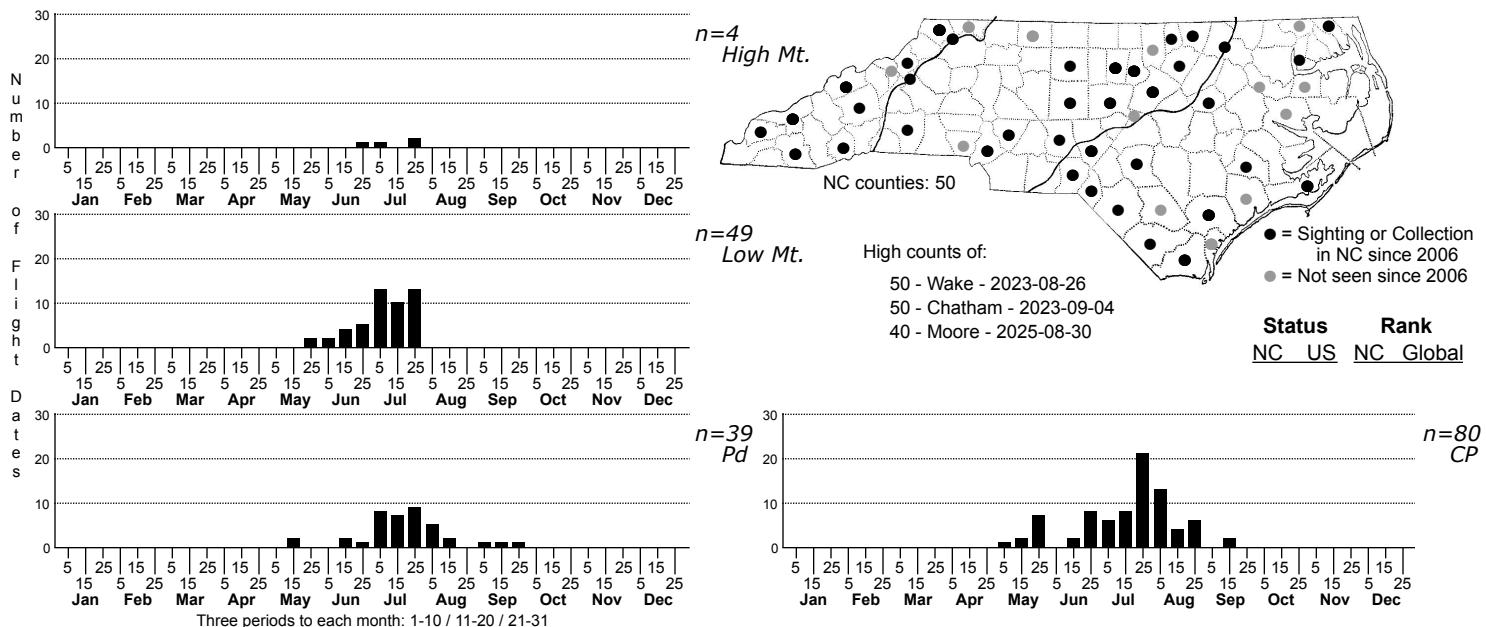


Datana ministra Yellow-necked Caterpillar Moth



FAMILY: Notodontidae SUBFAMILY: Phalerinae TRIBE:

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of 16 species in this genus, all but one of which occurs in North America north of Mexico (Miller et al., 2018). Nine have been recorded in North Carolina.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984); Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1948); Miller et al. (2018)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Forbes (1948); Wagner (2005); Miller et al. (2018)

ID COMMENTS: A reddish- to yellowish-brown *Datana*, with a crenate outer margin and showing little contrast across the width of the forewing, from the costal edge to the inner margin (Forbes, 1948; Miller et al., 2018). In *drexelli* and *major*, both of which also have a crenate outer margin, the anterior portion of the forewing is paler or richer golden yellow above the cubitus vein and darker below it. *Datana angusii*, the only other *Datana* with a crenate outer margin, also shows little contrast across the wing but the ground color is umber brown, without red or yellow shadings, and the lines are darker brown than in *ministra*. Worn or poorly marked specimens should be dissected to confirm their identification.

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: Oak barrens are preferred but other woodland and shrubland habitats are used, including parks and yards (Miller et al., 2018). Our records come from both dry and mesic hardwood forests, as well as maritime shrublands, Longleaf pine habitats, and peatlands. Mountain records come from cove forests and northern hardwoods.

FOOD: Larvae are polyphagous, feeding on many species of hardwood trees and shrubs. Miller et al. (2018) mention oaks as frequently used; other confirmed species include apple, basswood, beech, birch, chestnut, cotoneaster, elm, fetterbush, and willow. Hazelnut, hop-Hornbeam, and rose have also been reported (Robinson et al., 2010). In North Carolina, larvae have been recorded on White Oak (*Quercus alba*), Sand Post Oak (*Q. margaretiae*), Swamp Chestnut Oak (*Q. michauxii*), Water Oak (*Q. nigra*), Cherrybark Oak (*Q. pagoda*), Willow Oak (*Q. phellos*), Black Oak (*Q. velutina*), Sawtooth Oak (*Q. acutissima*), and Winged Elm (*Ulmus alata*).

OBSERVATION METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S5]

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

COMMENTS: