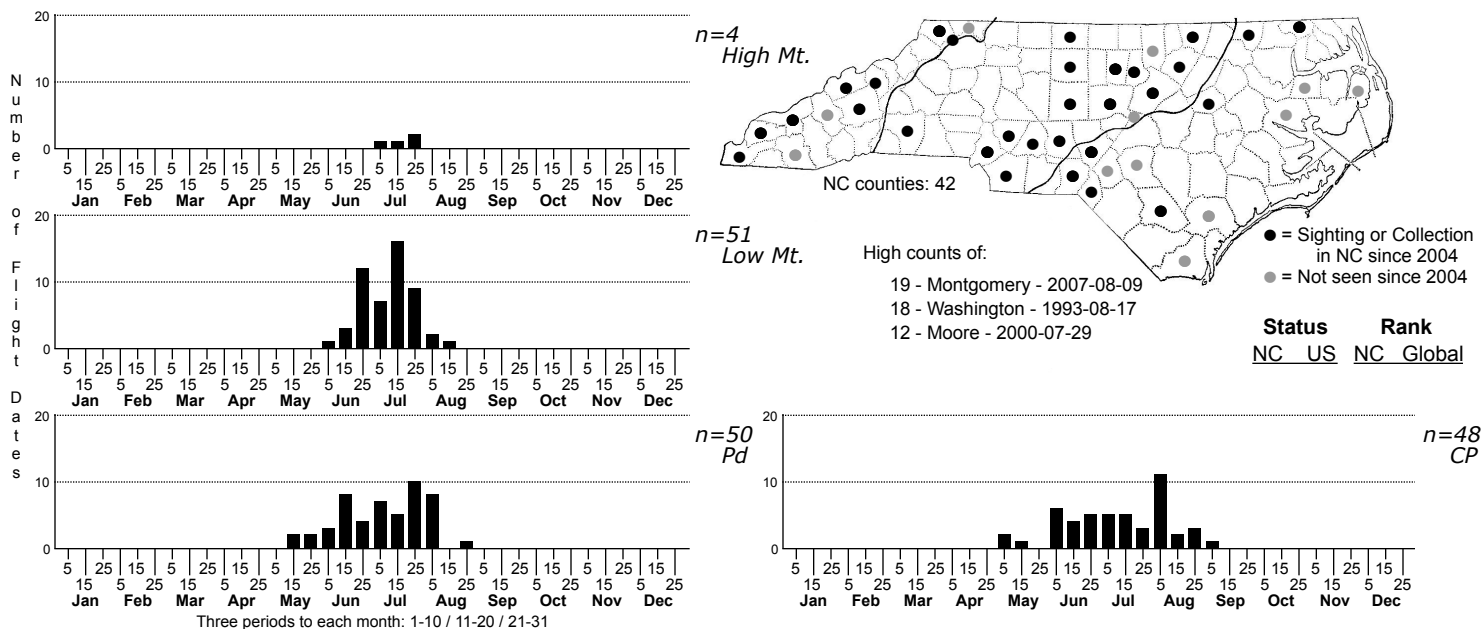


## *Datana drexelii* Drexel's Datana Moth



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 crenulate outer margin and usually with two conspicuous dark spots. In this species and *Datana major*, the forewings have a paler shade between the costal margin and cubitus vein that markedly contrasts with the posterior portion of the wing; in *ministra* and *angusii*, both of which also have crenulate outer margins, this contrast is absent or not as marked (Forbes, 1948; Miller et al., 2018). In *drexelii*, the costal area tends to be a lighter, golden-yellow (often reddish in our specimens) but is often a darker yellow in *major* (Miller et al., 2018). Forbes also notes that the posterior portion of the forewing is dusted with whitish or luteous in *drexelii* but is a darker wood-brown in *major*. Miller et al., however, state that wing color and pattern are usually insufficient to separate these two species and recommend relying on dissection or DNA analysis instead.

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: Our records come from a wide range of hardwood forests as well as woodlands and open habitats that have populations of heaths, including pocosins, Longleaf Pine savannas, flatwoods, and sand ridges.

FOOD: Larvae feed primarily on heaths, particularly blueberries (Wagner, 2005). Records from Witch Hazel also appear to be accurate but records on other species may represent misidentified *Datana ministra* - last instar larvae also wander and may show up on host plants not used earlier on (Miller et al., 2018). A BugGuide record apparently shows larvae feeding on Witch Hazel in North Carolina. David George found a caterpillar feeding on Sourwood, and there is also a BugGuide record for this host plant.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 S4S5

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

COMMENTS: