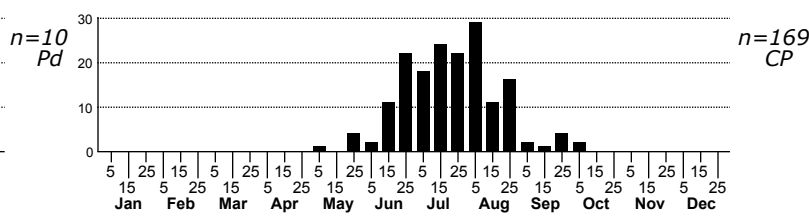
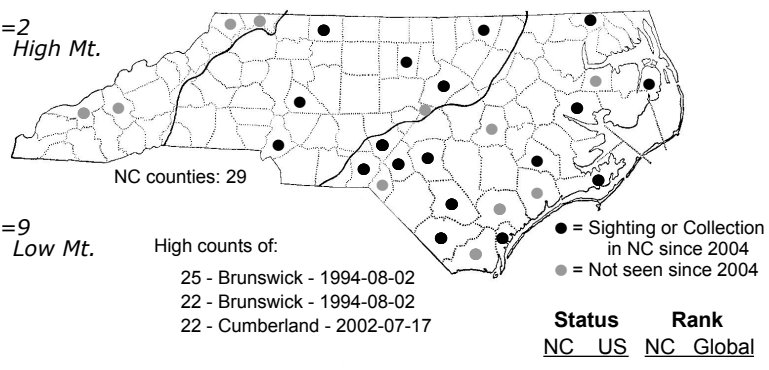
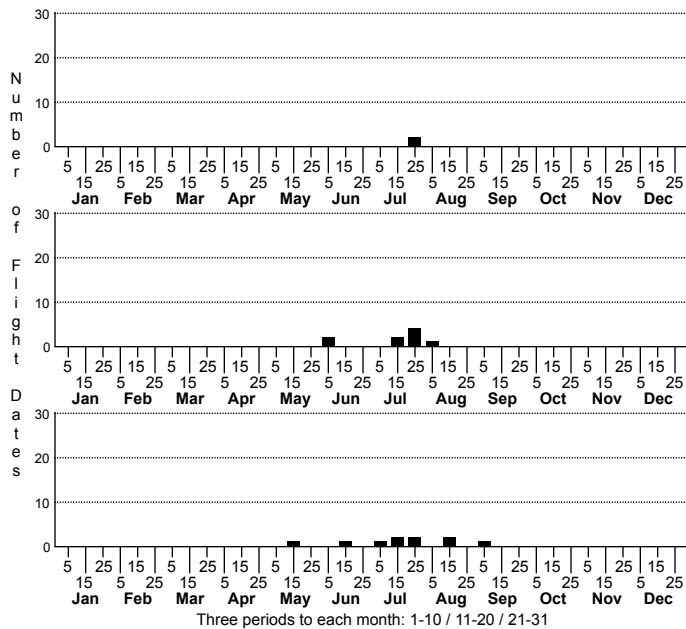


Datana major Major Datana Moth



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)

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. In this species and *Datana drexelii*, the forewings have a paler shade between the costal margin and cubitus vein that markedly contrasts with the lower portion of the wing; this contrast is missing in *ministra* and *angusii*, the other two species in this genus that have a crenulate outer margin. The orbicular and reniform spots are also conspicuous in these two species but not in *ministra* and *angusii* (Forbes, 1948). *Datana major* can be distinguished from *drexelii* in that the costal area tends to be a darker yellow, compared to the lighter, golden-yellow (or reddish) in *drexelii* (Miller et al., 2018). Forbes also notes that the lower portion of the forewing is a darker wood-brown in *major* but dusted with whitish or luteous in *drexelii*. 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: Bogs, acid swamps, and woodlands (Wagner, 2005). Over 90% of our records -- many verified by dissection -- come from the Coastal Plain. In that province, the majority of records come from savannas and flatwoods, swamps, peatlands, and wetland margins. In the Mountains, records come primarily from cove forests and riparian habitats.

FOOD: Larvae feed on heaths, but mainly genera other than *Vaccinium*, the main host used by *Datana drexelii* (Wagner, 2005). Recorded hosts include azaleas (*Rhododendron*), doghobble (*Leucothoe*), *Lyonia*, and *Chamaedaphne*, all of which are consistent with the habitats recorded for this species in North Carolina. Farkleberry (*Vaccinium arboreum*), however, is reportedly used along the Gulf Coast and Deerberry (*Vaccinium stamineum*) in the Ohio Valley (Miller et al., 2018). The habitats of those heaths -- primarily dry, sandy, or rocky upland forests in both cases -- are seldom used by *D. major* in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION_METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G4G5 S3S4

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

COMMENTS: