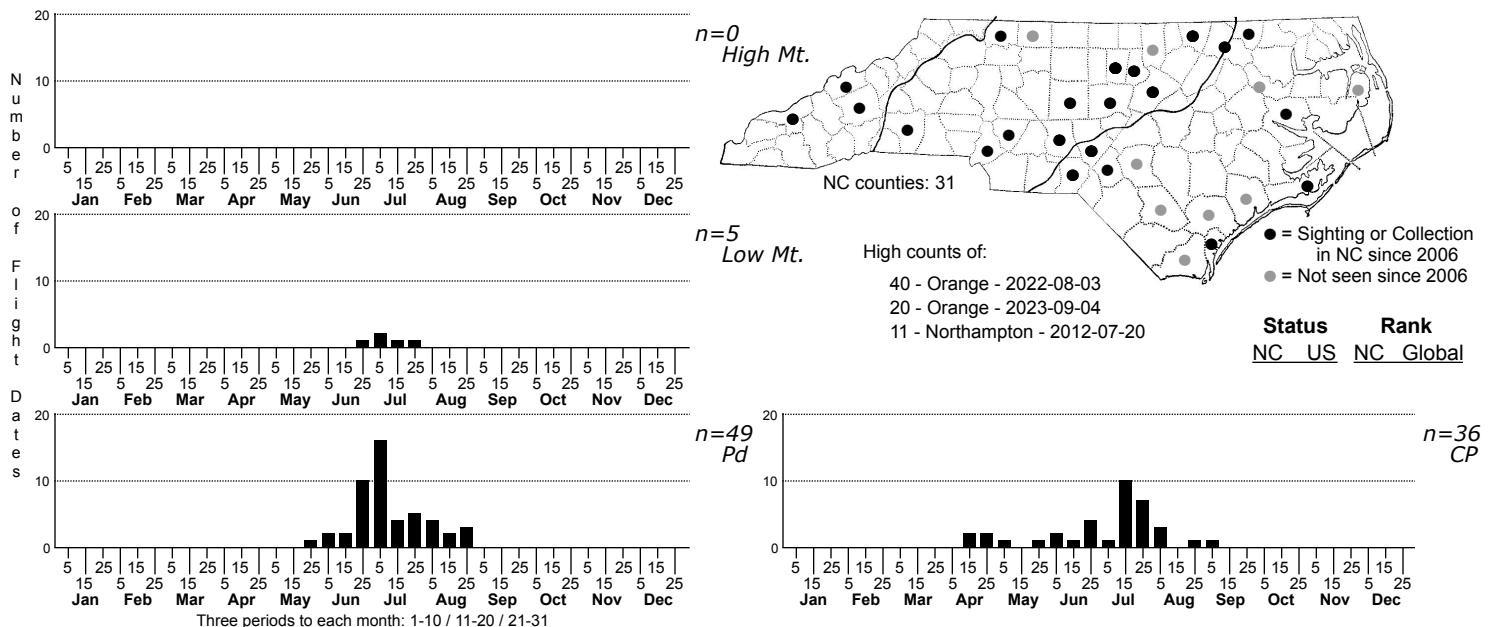


# *Datana contracta* Contracted Datana



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: One of five Datanas in our area with a smooth outer margin of the forewing. The head is yellowish but the collar, tegulae, and mesothorax are contrastingly dark, reddish-brown. The ground color of the forewing is golden-yellow, especially in the costal area, and heavily peppered with brown but with no silvery frosting of gray or white scales. The lines are bordered outwardly with pale yellow (Forbes, 1948). *Datana integerrima* is similar in pattern but the ground color of the forewings are reddish-brown and lack the peppering of darker brown scales (Forbes, 1948; Miller et al., 2018).

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: Barrens and woodlands (Wagner, 2005). Our records all come from hardwood stands, with roughly 60% from dry-xeric habitats but with a substantial number from mesic stands.

FOOD: Larvae feed on oaks and chestnuts; other reported host plants are probably based on mis-identifications or on wandering, late instar larvae (Wagner, 2005; Miller et al., 2018). In North Carolina, larvae have been observed on White Oak (*Quercus alba*), Willow Oak (*Quercus phellos*), Northern Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*), and Chinese Chestnut (*Castanea mollissima*).

OBSERVATION METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S4S5]

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

COMMENTS: