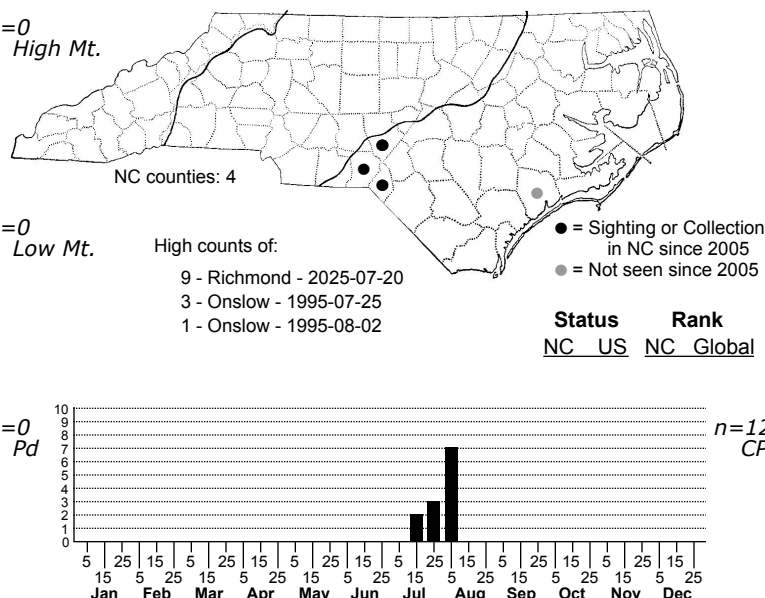


# *Datana robusta* Robust Datana



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:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Packard (1895)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: A medium large Prominent. The ground color and pattern of the forewing is buff-yellow to clay color with a pattern of lines and spots similar to that of *D. perspicua* (Packard, 1895). The disk of the thorax is typically pale buff and is concolorous with the rest of the thorax, whereas it is usually a darker brown in *perspicua*. The hindwings are paler buff than the forewings and have a darker shade towards the outer margin, whereas they are usually uniformly colored in *perspicua*.

DISTRIBUTION: Appears to be restricted in North Carolina to the southern half of the Outer Coastal Plain

FLIGHT COMMENT: All of our records come from late July and early August but we have too few to determine any pattern

HABITAT: Most of our records come from xeric woodlands in the Fall-line Sandhills. Two other sites are located in the Outer Coastal Plain, both with sand ridge woodlands located in the vicinity.

FOOD: Host plants are poorly documented. Heppner (2007) lists sumac, but this requires confirmation.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: Comes at least to some extent to blacklights

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G2G4 S1S2

STATE PROTECTION: Listed as Significantly Rare by the Natural Heritage Program. That designation, however, does not confer any legal protection, although permits are required to collect it on state parks and other public lands.

COMMENTS: This is a poorly known, rare to uncommon species throughout its range (NatureServe Explorer, 2016). In North Carolina, this species has been recorded only within Camp Lejeune, where it appears to be resident: it has been recorded in two different months and at three different locations. More needs to be learned about its host plants, habitat associations, and other details of its life history before its conservation needs can be identified.