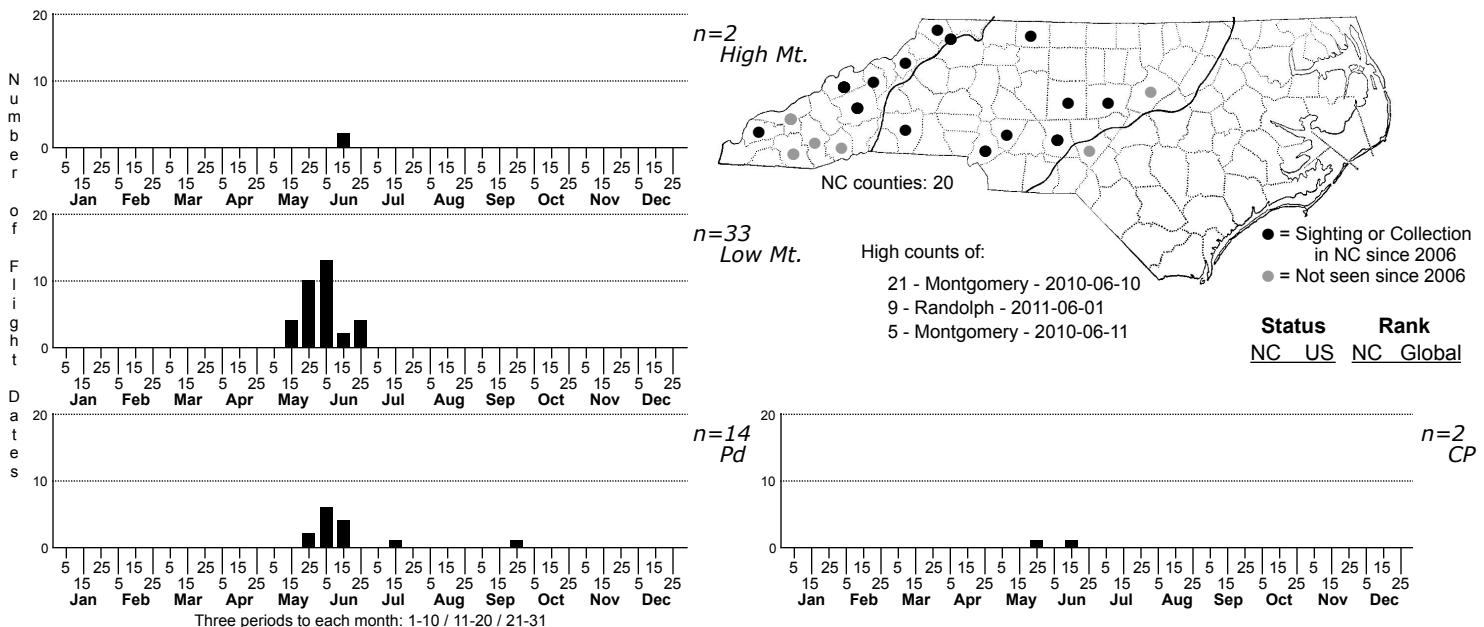


## *Apantesis anna* Anna Tiger Moth



FAMILY: Erebidae SUBFAMILY: Arctiinae TRIBE: Arctiini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: The genus *Apantesis* is represented by 43 species in North America, including 13 species in North Carolina.

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1960); Schmidt (2009)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Forbes (1960)

ID COMMENTS: Easily recognizable from a good quality photograph where both the hindwings and forewings are in view. The hindwings are yellow basally, with a broad black band running along the outer margin and usually with a black hook projecting down from the costa; in females, the hindwing may be completely black. The forewings are black with both narrow yellow lines along the veins and a set of broader yellow bands running longitudinally and transversely (see Schmidt, 2009, for a detailed description). This pattern is similar to that of *A. virgo* and *A. parthenice*, both of which have red or pink hindwings with separated black spots rather than a continuous band (in some forms of *A. virgo* and *A. parthenice*, the hindwing may also be yellow but with the black spots are separated rather than forming a continuous band (Schmidt, 2009)).

DISTRIBUTION: Long known from the mountains but more recently discovered in the Uwharries and Sandhills, indicating that there is still more to be learned about its distribution in North Carolina.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Schmidt (2009) states that it has one flight period, which appears to be the case in North Carolina.

HABITAT: According to Schmidt (2009), *Apantesis anna* "inhabits relatively rich, mesic wooded areas, and is one of only a few species restricted to habitats associated with deciduous forests of eastern North America." Records from our Blue Ridge come from both upland and lowland forests. Records from the Uwharries and Sandhills all come from hardwood-dominated stands, all but one of which (4/5) contain extensive hillside seepage bogs or bottomland seeps with fairly rich herbaceous vegetation (the fifth is a dry upland site, although located fairly close to a more mesic ravine).

FOOD: Members of this genus are highly polyphagous, feeding on a wide range of herbaceous plants, with dicots possibly preferred (Schmidt, 2009). Specific hosts listed in the literature include plantain (*Plantago*), dandelion (*Taraxacum*), and clover (*Trifolium*). We do not have any feeding records in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION METHODS: Appears to come well to blacklights, with up to 21 collected in a single trap. Adult mouthparts are non-functional (Singer, 2000, cited in Schmidt, 2009), so they do not come to bait.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S3]

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

COMMENTS: Although this species has a peculiarly patchy and seemingly bimodal range in North Carolina, its distribution and habitats need to be better studied before its conservation status in the state can be accurately estimated.