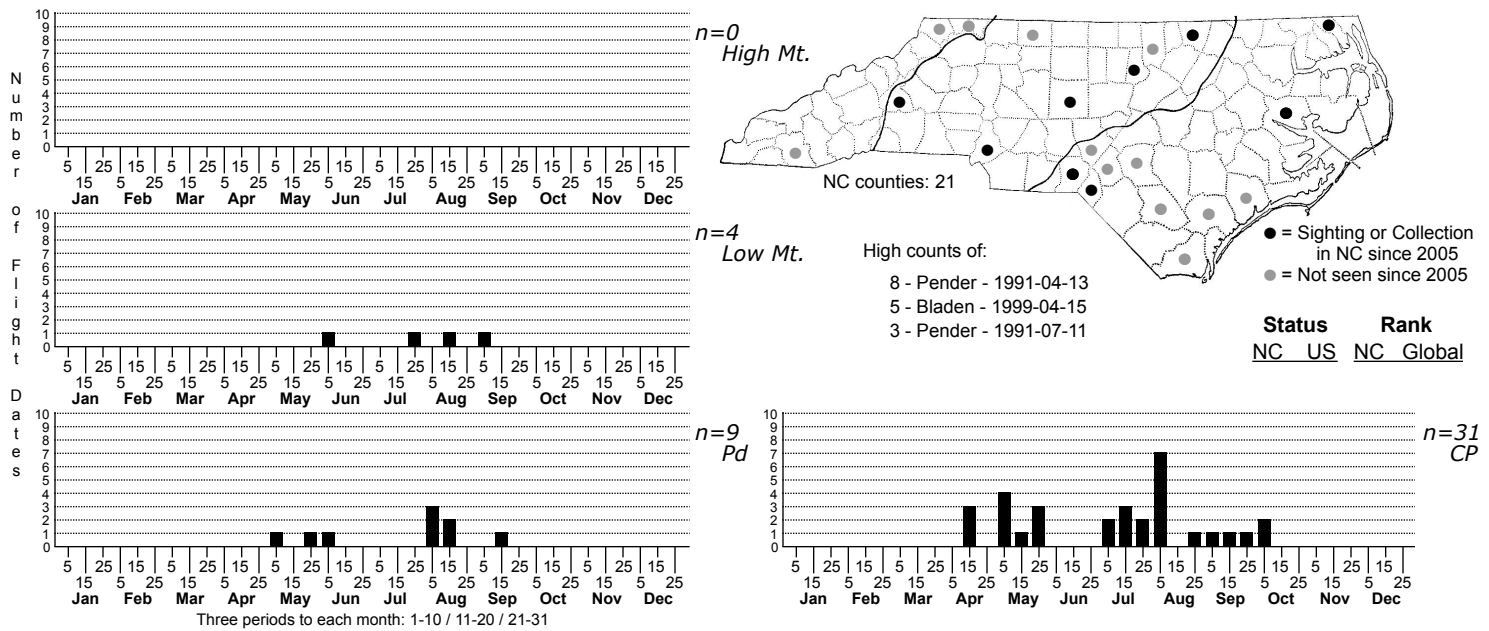


Apantesis figurata Figured Tiger Moth



FAMILY: Erebiidae 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: None

ID COMMENTS: Fairly recognizable from a good quality photograph where both the hindwings and forewings are in view. The hindwings are usually crimson basally (sometimes pink or yellow), with a broad black band running along the outer margin and with a black spot in the medial area; in females, the hindwing may be completely black or possess a small spot of red near the apex. Fore-wings are black with variably reduced yellow lines. Vein lines are completely missing and lines along the costal and inner margins may be either absent or narrow, sometimes terminating before the angles of the wing. Broader yellow stripes are usually present along the medial, post-medial and post-cubital lines (terminology following Schmidt, 2009), often forming an F-shape lying on its side. The medial stripe runs obliquely up from the post-cubital line, meeting the costa at a right angle; the post-medial is relatively straight, forming a right angle with the post-cubital and meeting the costa at an acute angle. A zig-zag yellow sub-terminal line is variably developed, sometimes forming two triangles with the post-medial, sometimes fragmentary or entirely absent.

DISTRIBUTION: Found over most of the state except perhaps from the Outer Banks and other barrier islands and from the High Mountains

FLIGHT COMMENT: Probably has two distinct flights

HABITAT: The majority of our records come from open woodlands, including Longleaf Pine savannas and particularly sandhills; diabase barrens and glades; and dry, rocky ridges. In the Mountains, there are also records from New River State Park, possibly from old pastures. None of our records come from wet bottomlands or peatlands. Records are also missing from dune grasslands and maritime forest on the barrier islands, where many other species associated with dry woodlands and glades have been found.

FOOD: Members of this genus are highly polyphagous, feeding on a wide range of herbaceous plants, with dicots possibly preferred (Schmidt, 2009). Reported host plants include Alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*) and plantain (*Plantago*) (Tietz, 1972; Covell, 1984).

OBSERVATION_METHODS: Comes moderately well to blacklights, with up to 8 being collected in a single trap. The adult mouthparts are non-functional (Singer, 2000, cited in Schmidt, 2009), so they do not come to bait.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S4]

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

COMMENTS: This species appears to be uncommon and somewhat specialized on dry, open habitats but uses a fairly broad range across the state; probably fairly secure.