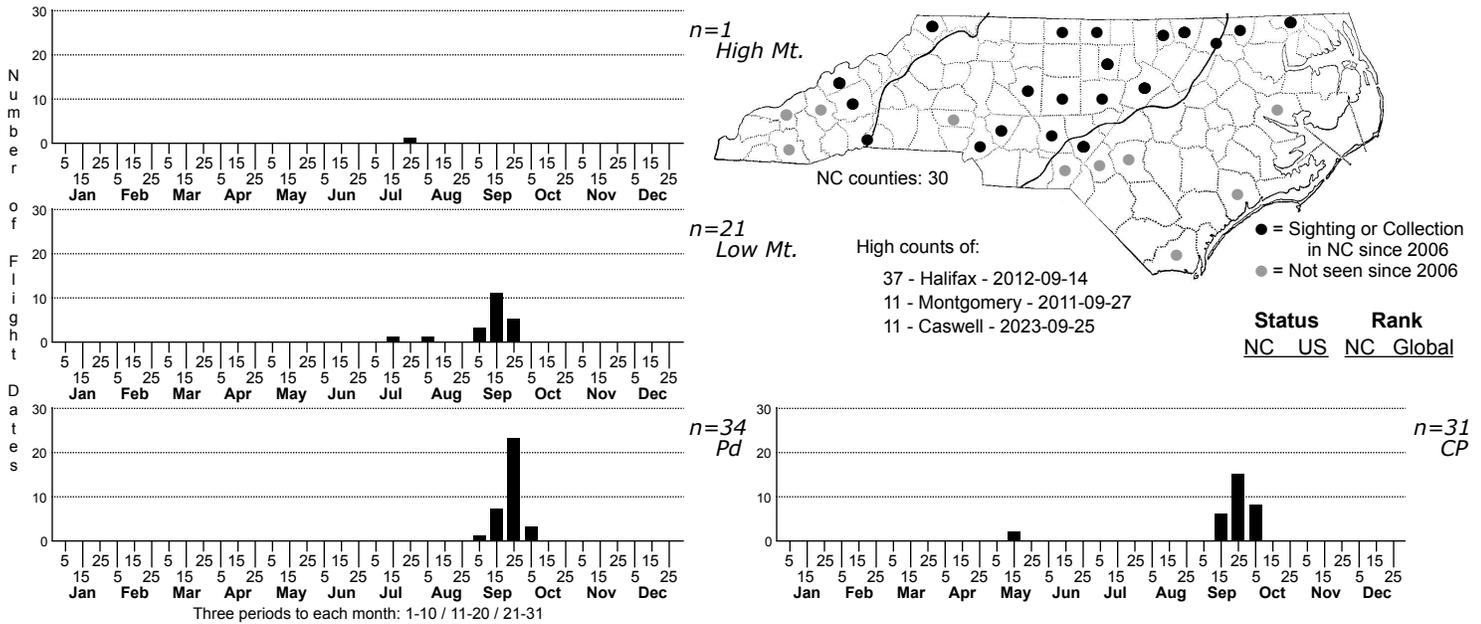


## *Apantesis parthenice* Parthenice Tiger Moth



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. The form occurring in North Carolina has long been considered to represent subspecies *intermedia*, which is much larger than the nominate subspecies occurring in the northern plains and boreal areas. However, Schmidt (2009) stated that more work would be needed to see if Southeastern populations are actually the same as those from Texas, where *intermedia* was originally described.

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: A boldly marked Tiger Moth, second in size only to *A. virgo* among our species. Easily recognizable from a good quality photograph where both the hindwings and forewings are in view. The hindwings are usually red or pink (rarely yellow) and have a row of black spots located along the outer margin but lacks the ante-medial spots characteristic of *virgo*. The forewings are black with both narrow yellow lines along the veins and a set of broader yellow bands running longitudinally and transversely. This pattern is similar to that of *A. virgo* and *A. anna* but the post-median (terminology following Schmidt, 2009) is strongly bent at the midpoint in those species but is only slightly bent, if at all, in *A. parthenice*.

DISTRIBUTION: Probably occurs statewide except possibly on the Outer Banks and other barrier islands

FLIGHT COMMENT: Has one primary flight in September but with at least one specimen collected in May in the Coastal Plain. Overlaps but is usually later than *A. virgo*.

HABITAT: Schmidt (2009) states that *A. parthenice* is one of the most widespread species in this genus and occupies a wide range of habitats, from "rich deciduous forests to the grasslands of the Great Plains, preferring mesic meadows, pastures, and edges of wetlands." Our records come primarily from hardwood forests, with most from mesic or bottomland habitats. Records from barrier islands and peatlands are lacking and we have only a small number from Longleaf Pine habitats, usually where there are stands of hardwoods located in nearby stream bottoms.

FOOD: Members of this genus are highly polyphagous, feeding on a wide range of herbaceous plants, with dicots possibly preferred (Schmidt, 2009). Reported hosts include Lamb's-quarters (*Chenopodium album*), plantain (*Plantago*), Common Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*), and New York Ironweed (*Vernonia noveboracensis*) (Tietz, 1972).

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: Comes fairly well to blacklights, but usually in small numbers. 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 [S5]

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

COMMENTS: Occurs across most of the state and occupies a wide range of habitats; appears to be fairly secure.