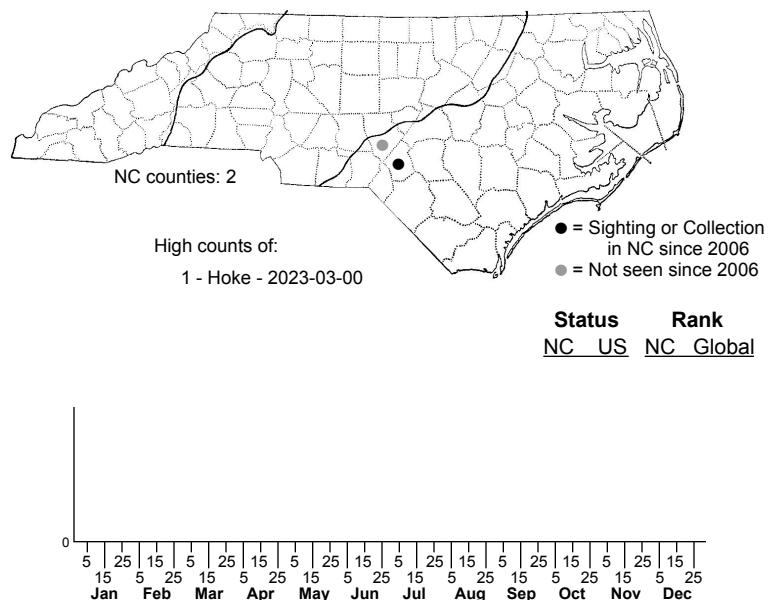
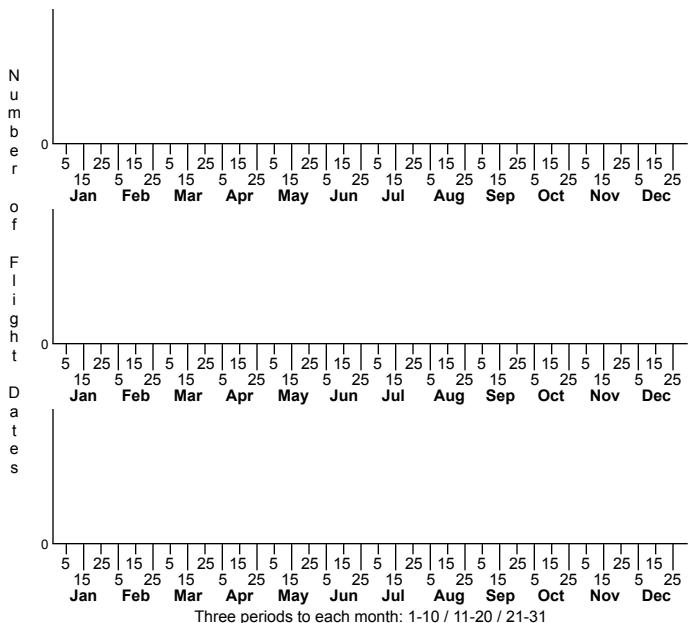


# *Apantesis doris* Doris Tiger Moth



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. Included along with *A. arge* in subgenus *Mimarcia*, characterized by their completely pale costal cells as well as other features (Schmidt, 2009).

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

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

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Forbes (1960); Wagner (2005)

ID COMMENTS: A pale, pinkish-cream colored Tiger Moth, with the black markings on the forewings reduced to narrow streaks and wedges. Based on the differences between *doris* and *arge* described by Schmidt (2009; see Species Account for *arge*), we are now not certain that any definite specimens of *A. doris* have been found in North Carolina.

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Too few records exist from North Carolina to determine a pattern. Schmidt (2009) states that the range of collection dates for adults indicates that there may be more than one generation per year.

HABITAT: Too few records exist from North Carolina to determine habitat associations. This also appears to be true over the entire range of this species. Schmidt (2009) states that the rarity of this species is puzzling for such a widely distributed species, but may be due to undersampling of its preferred habitat, although there is no clear indication as to what that habitat may be.

FOOD: Members of this genus are highly polyphagous, feeding on a wide range of herbaceous plants, with dicots possibly preferred (Schmidt, 2009). Host plants for *A. doris* are poorly documented. Tietz (1972) listed lettuce (*Lactuca*) and dandelion (*Taraxacum*), but these records may be from ex ova rearing.

OBSERVATION METHODS: Although this species is believed to be nocturnal, it is unclear how well it comes to light. The mouthparts are non-functional (Singer, 2000, cited in Schmidt, 2009), so it does not come to bait.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G4? S1S3 [SH]

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: There is general agreement that this species is rare across its entire range (Schmidt, 2009), and a great deal still needs to be learned about the distribution, abundance, and habitat preferences before its conservation needs can be generally assessed. In North Carolina in particular, we are still uncertain as to whether this species has an extant population anywhere within the state. Schmidt examined two specimens from Southern Pines, both quite old (Schmidt, pers. comm. to J.B. Sullivan, 2019). These records may possibly be the same as given in Brimley (1938), possibly collected by Manee who was an active collector in that area in the first decades of the Twentieth Century. However, we know of no modern specimens from the state.