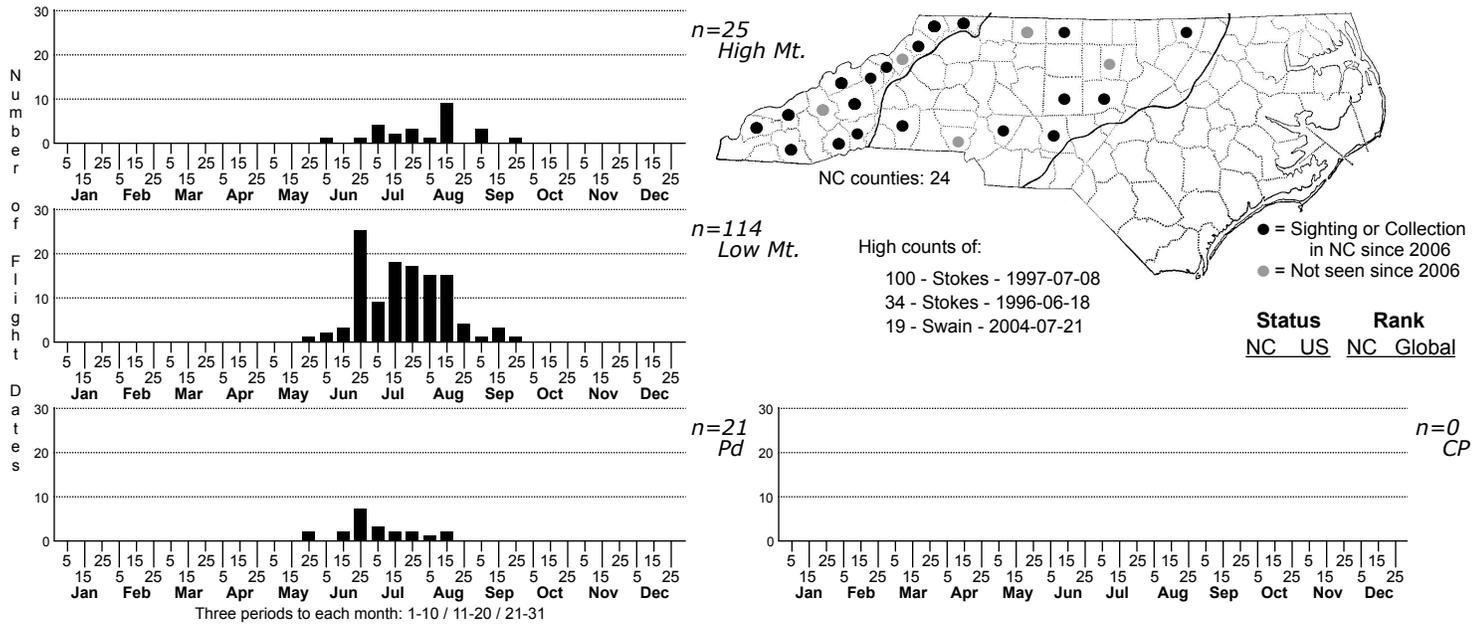


Dasychira obliquata Streaked Tussock Moth



FAMILY: Erebidae SUBFAMILY: Lymantriinae TRIBE: Orgyiini

TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: One of 16 species in this genus that occur in North America, 10 of which have been recorded in North Carolina.

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1948); Ferguson (1978)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Both Forbes (1948) and Ferguson (1978) provide keys to the larvae.

ID COMMENTS: Males have a smooth, greenish-gray median area without much white shading towards the costa; the basal and subterminal areas are shaded with brown but not contrasting with the rest of the wing (Forbes, 1948). The antemedian is black and strongly dentate and the postmedian is slightly dentate with a tooth at M3 and generally convex above that point to the costa. Forms with black bars are common, which in this species are thin and sharply pointed -- easily distinguishing this species when present. Hind-wings are dark fuscous. Females are larger and have more extensive white areas over the cell but are otherwise similar in color. In barred forms, there may be additional dark streaks along the veins.

DISTRIBUTION: This species appears to be widespread in both the Mountains and Piedmont, but we have no records from the Coastal Plain.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Appears to have one prolonged flight, from late spring to early fall.

HABITAT: The majority of our records come from upland stands of hardwoods, including many dry to xeric sites. A few also come from riparian habitats, again in association with stands of hardwoods.

FOOD: Larvae are polyphagous, feeding primarily on oaks (<i>Quercus</i>) but with hickory (<i>Carya</i>), beech (<i>Fagus</i>), elm (<i>Ulmus</i>), birch (<i>Betula</i>), and cherry (<i>Prunus</i>) also reported (Ferguson, 1978). As of 2024, we have records for a hawthorn (<i>Crataegus</i> sp.) and Black Walnut (<i>Juglans nigra</i>). There is also an iNaturalist record showing a larva feeding on White Oak.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: Appears to come well to 15 watt UV lights. Adults do not feed, so do not come to bait or to flowers. Larvae are distinctive and should be looked for in order to better document their host plants. The hair of all Lymantriinae larvae are possibly urticating, however, and should be handled with care (Ferguson, 1978).

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G4 SNR [S4S5]

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

COMMENTS: Fairly widespread over the western two thirds of the state and found in a number of common types of hardwood forests. Appears to be secure in the state.