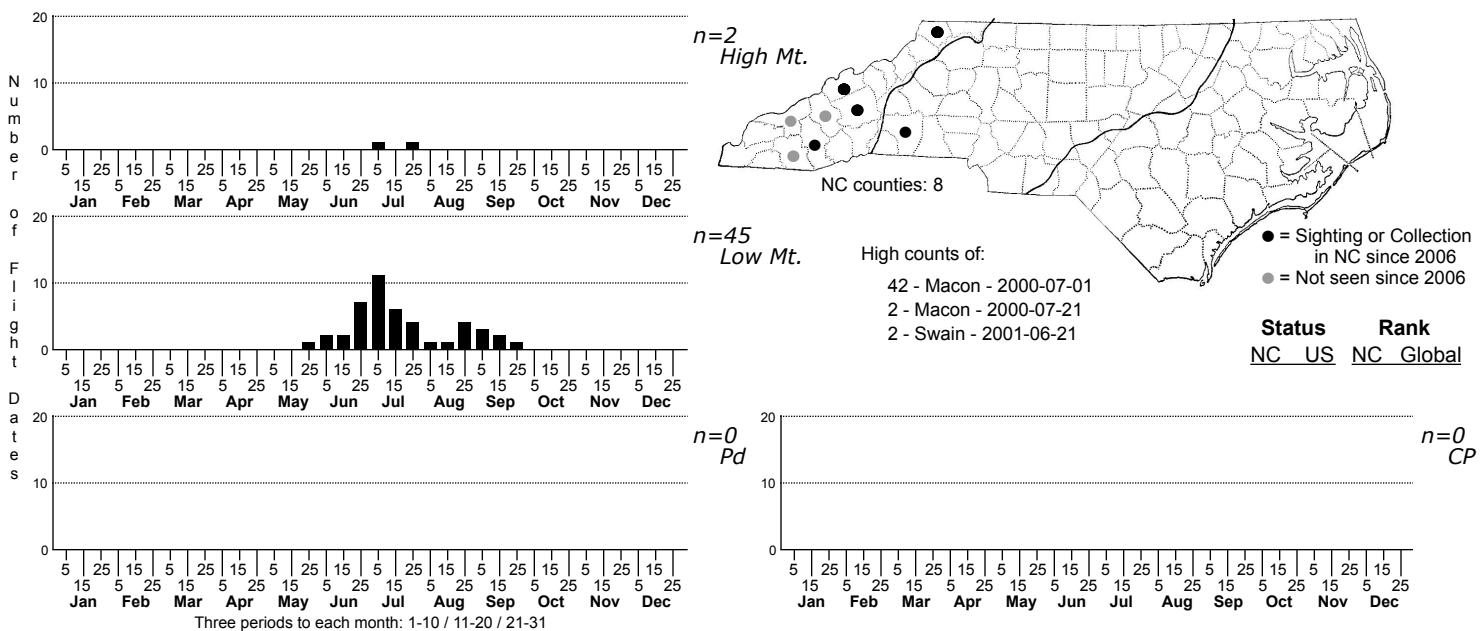


## *Zanclognatha dentata* Toothed Zanclognatha



FAMILY: Erebidae SUBFAMILY: Herminiinae TRIBE:

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of thirteen species in this genus that occur in North America north of Mexico (Lafontaine and Schmidt, 2010; 2013; Wagner and McCabe, 2011), all of which have been recorded in North Carolina.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Wagner and McCabe (2011)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Wagner and McCabe (2011)

ID COMMENTS: A medium-small brown Deltoid with strongly dentate postmedian lines. The head, body, and ground color of the wings varies from light brown to dark chocolate. The antemedian and postmedian lines are both dark brown, widened and darkened where they join the costa. The antemedian is scalloped or waved and the postmedian is abruptly bent outward at the radial veins and sharply dentate from the cell to the fold. The subterminal is usually not prominent -- thin but traceable. The reniform is dark brown and often concave on the outer side. A dark, diffuse shade often occurs on the inner side of the postmedian, from the cell to the inner margin, but the ground color is otherwise fairly uniform over the forewing. The hindwings are brown (see Wagner and McCabe, 2011, for details). *Zanclognatha martha* is similar but larger, usually lacks a subterminal line, and is darkened towards the outer margin. *Z. protumnusalis* is even more similar and not all specimens can be separated. However, it usually lacks the dark shade in front of the postmedian, which also makes a more rounded bend in from the costa. The reniform spot is usually rounded distally rather than concave (Wagner and McCabe, 2011).

DISTRIBUTION: Appears to be restricted to the Mountains.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Univoltine, flying from late May to late August.

HABITAT: Generally recorded from both riparian forests and dry slopes in the mountains; found mostly at lower elevations but we have at least one record from above 4,000 feet.

FOOD: Larvae have been reared on dead oak leaves but have also been collected by beating from both conifers and Witch-hazel (Wagner and McCabe, 2011). Wagner and McCabe also report that Maeir et al. reared larvae they had collected on fir and hemlock.

OBSERVATION METHODS: All of our records come from blacklight sampling, but Wagner and McCabe state that *Z. dentata* also comes to bait.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G3G4 SU [S3S5]

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

COMMENTS: This species had been recognized as an undescribed species for some time and its distribution in the Southern Appalachians was uncertain. Consequently, it was placed on the NC NHP Watchlist. With its description in 2011, along with records collected throughout the North Carolina mountains, it no longer appears to be of potential conservation concern. It occupies a wide range of habitats in the mountains and appears to be fairly secure within the state. We recommend that it be taken off the NC Watchlist.