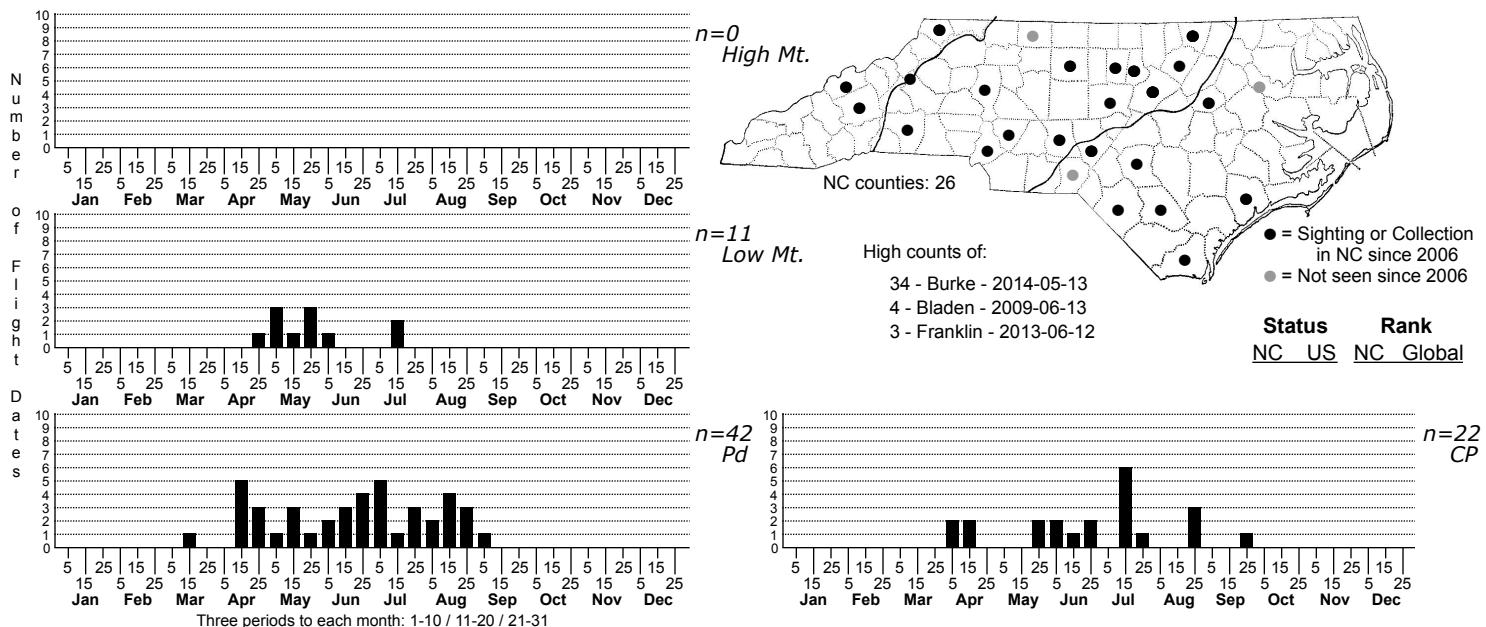


Acronicta betulae River Birch Dagger



FAMILY: Noctuidae SUBFAMILY: Acronictinae TRIBE:

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of 74 species in this genus found in North America north of Mexico (Schmidt and Anweiler, 2020), 42 of which have been recorded in North Carolina. *Acronicta betulae* is a member of Species Group II of Forbes (1954), which includes 17 additional species in North Carolina.

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1954); Schmidt and Anweiler (2020)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS:

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: Most of our records come from floodplains or their vicinity where River Birch is present. One record from an upland site in the Mountains is associated with a planted stand of River Birch. David George also reports frequent sightings of adults in an urban residential neighborhood in Durham (not near any floodplains), where two River Birches have been planted.

FOOD: Larvae are reported to be monophagous on River Birch (*Betula nigra*) (Wagner et al., 2011), which has been confirmed as the host plant in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR SNR [S4S5]

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

COMMENTS: