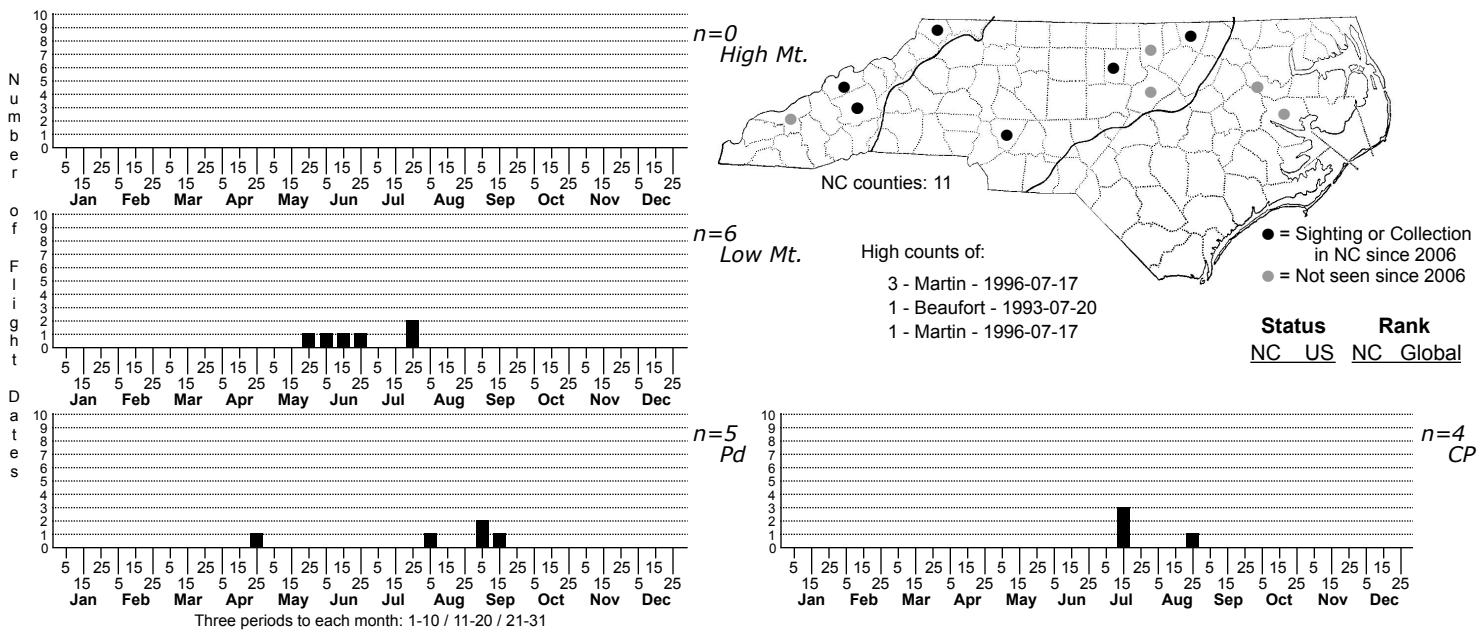


## *Acronicta connecta* Connected Dagger



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. *< i>Acronicta connecta< /i>* 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: The ground color is typically a mottled ash gray, but there is also a melanic form that can be fairly common (Forbes, 1954). A brownish shade may also be present, especially in the cell. The most conspicuous feature is a dark shade in the fold, running from the base to the outer margin. This shade may be joined by a median dark shade that runs between the orbicular and reniform. The terminal space can also be dark gray or with some dark spots or patches. The antemedian and postmedian are normal, with the postmedian filled with whitish except where it crosses the dark streak. The orbicular and reniform are often obscure and incompletely outlined except for their lower and median sides, which may be more heavily black and sometimes joined by a bar. The hindwing is dirty whitish with dark gray veins and border and a diffuse postmedian shade.

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: Our records almost all come from pond, lake, and stream shorelines.

FOOD: Larvae feed on willows (*< i>Salix< /i>* spp.) (Wagner et al., 2011).

OBSERVATION METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G4 SNR [S2S3]

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

COMMENTS: