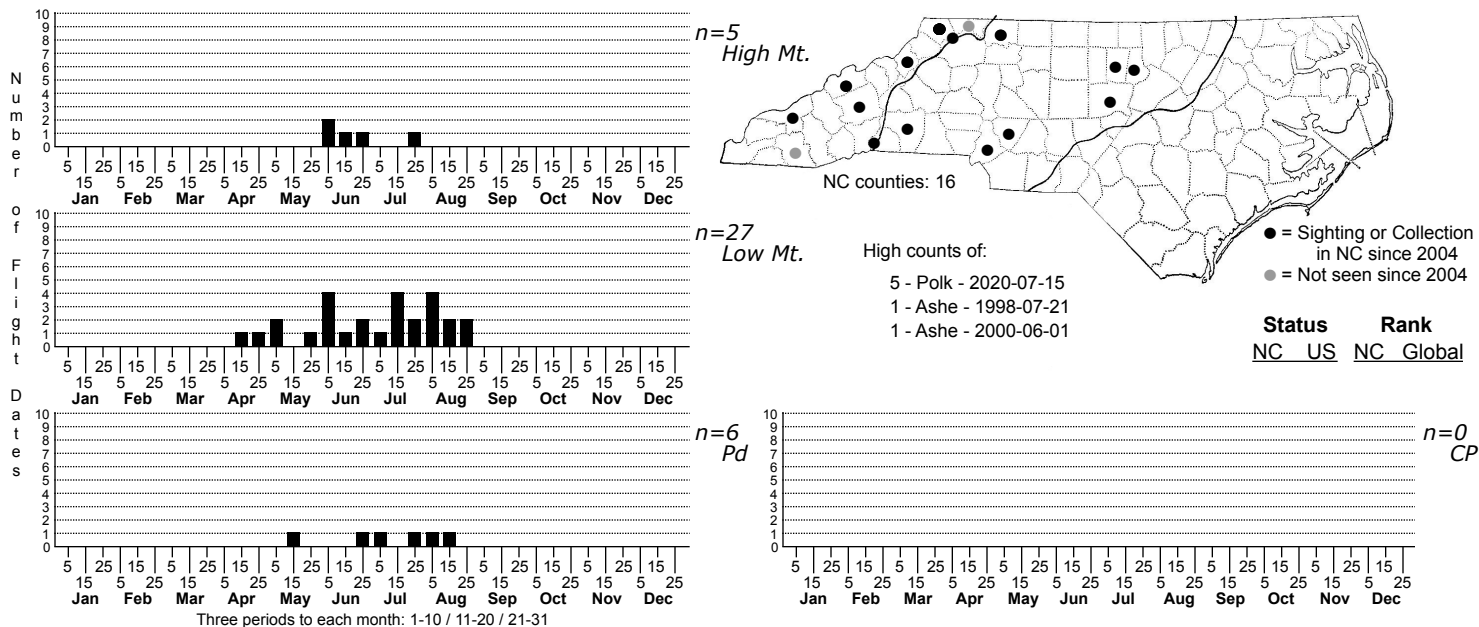


## *Acronicta funeralis* Funerary Dagger



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. Included in subgenus *Jocheaera* by Schmidt and Anweiler (2020), which has three other members, including *A. perblanda* in North Carolina.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984); Beadle and Leckie (2012); Leckie and Beadle (2018)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

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

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Wagner et al. (2011); Schmidt and Anweiler (2020)

ID COMMENTS: A very distinctive species, typically with a white ground color on head, thorax, and forewings, and a contrasting black bar along the inner margin of the forewings and strong tornal dashes. Some individuals have a darker gray ground color but are still recognizable by their pattern.

DISTRIBUTION: Most records come from the Mountains but there are also a few from lower elevation, including the lower slopes of the Blue Ridge escarpment and from three sites in the Piedmont.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Univoltine, with adults observed from May to August.

HABITAT: Schmidt and Anweiler (2020) describe the habitat of this species as open woodlands with a diverse shrub or small tree component. In North Carolina, records come mainly from mesic and riparian stands of hardwoods, including cove forests, northern hardwood forests, and floodplain forests.

FOOD: Larvae are highly polyphagous on hardwood trees and shrubs. Preferences include members of the Birch, Rose, and Oak families (Wagner et al., 2011) but also including Hickory, Maple, and Witch Hazel. Schmidt and Anweiler (2020) list Cottonwood, Willow, Ironwood, Alder and other floodplain species in addition to species associated with mesic hardwood forests.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: Adults come well to black lights

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 S3S4

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

COMMENTS: Although found mainly in montane forests, we have at least a few records from the Piedmont, indicating that there is still more to be learned about the overall distribution of this species in the state. Although we still do not have a large number of records for this species, it does not appear to be restricted in terms of its habitats and currently has only a low level of conservation concern.