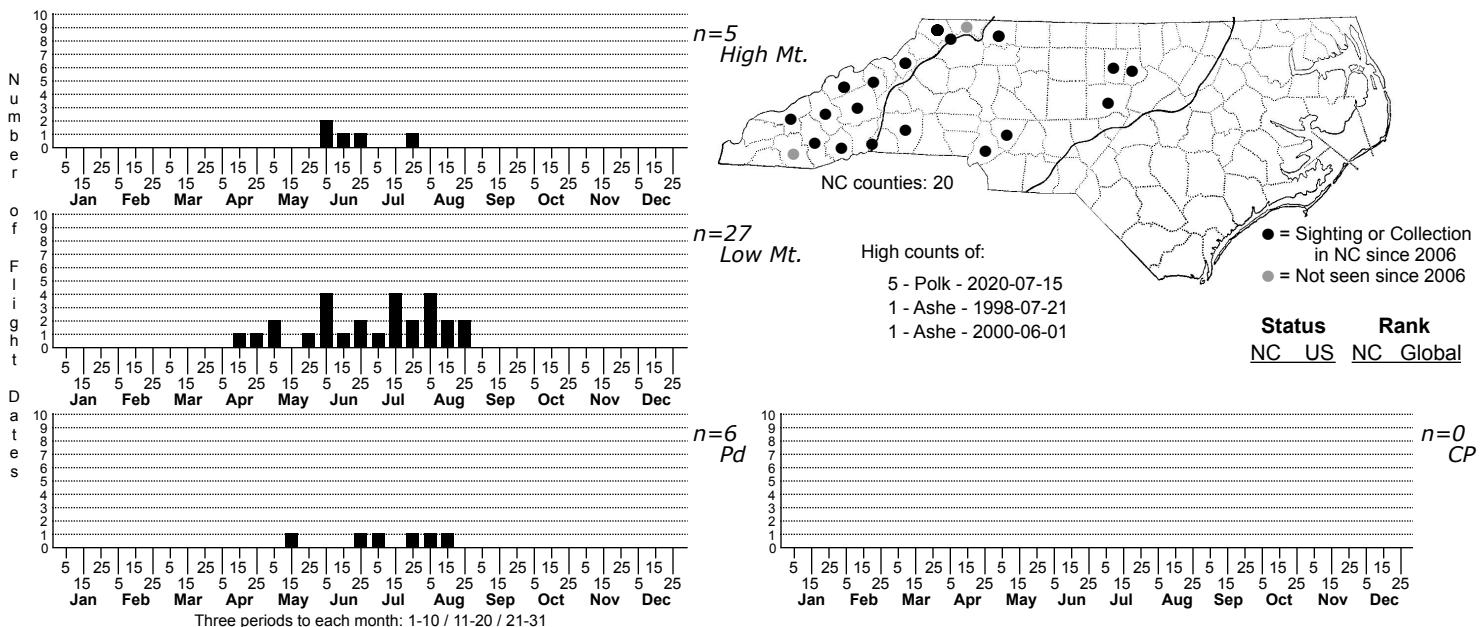


Acronicta funeralis Funerary Dagger



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 larvae also reportedly feed on hickory (*Carya*), maple (*Acer*), willow (*Salix*), alder (*Alnus*), and witch-hazel (*Hamamelis*). Schmidt and Anweiler (2020) list cottonwood (*Populus*), willow, hop-hornbeam (*Ostrya*), alder, and other floodplain species in addition to species associated with mesic hardwood forests. In North Carolina, larvae have been observed feeding on birch (*Betula*), Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*), Northern Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*), and blueberry (*Vaccinium*).

OBSERVATION METHODS: Adults come well to black lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [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.