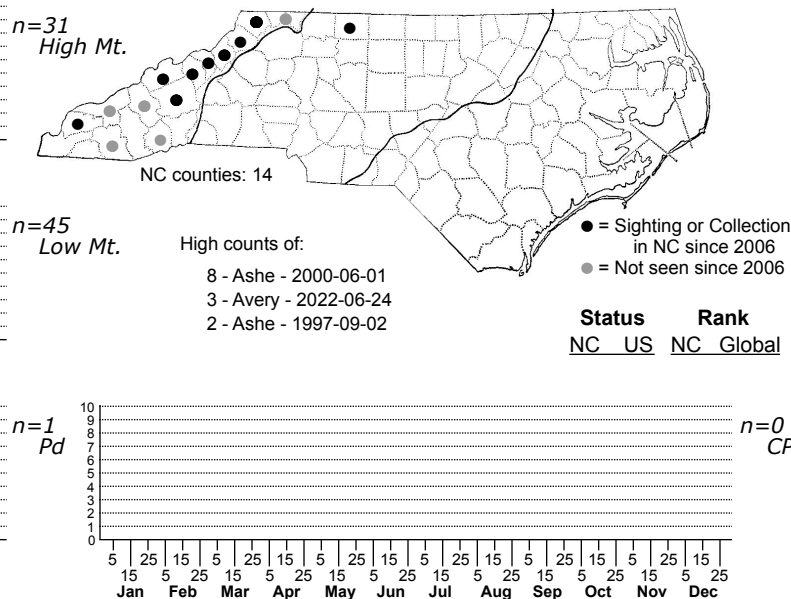
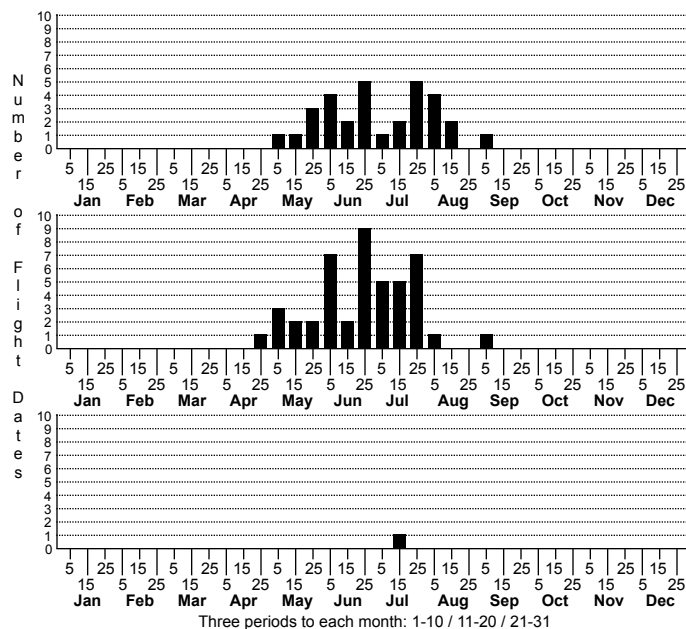


## *Acronicta superans*    Splendid Dagger



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. This species is placed in subgenus *Agriopodes* by Schmidt and Anweiler, and in the Hasta Species Group. Other members of this group in North Carolina include *Acronicta hamamelis*, *A. lithospila*, *A. innotata*, *A. betulae*, *A. radcliffei*, *A. hasta*, *A. interrupta*, *A. laetifica*, *A. spinigera*, *A. morula*, and *A. lobeliae*.

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: This species is primarily northern in its distribution, reaching North Carolina in the mountains. We also have one record from the Piedmont, but from a high modadnock with strong montane affinities

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: Our records come mainly from montane alluvial forests, cove forests, and high elevation forests.

FOOD: Larvae feed primarily on members of the rose family, including apple (*Malus*), cherry and plum (*Prunus*), hawthorn (*Crataegus*), mountain-ash (*Sorbus*), and serviceberry (*Amelanchier*) (Wagner et al., 2011); birch (*Betula*) and hazel (*Corylus*) have also been reported. In North Carolina, we have observed this species feeding on apple.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS:

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: