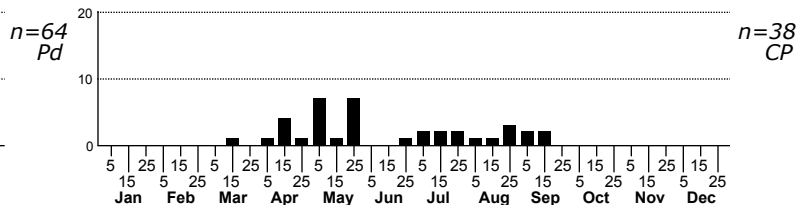
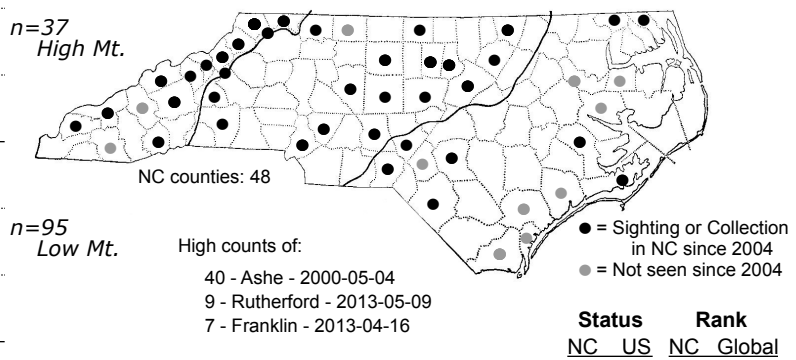
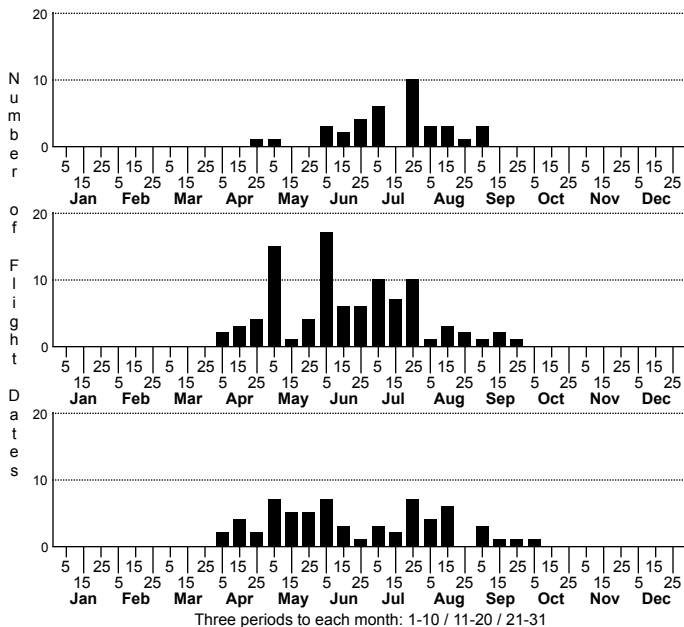


# *Acronicta hasta* Speared Dagger



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. interrupta*, *A. laetifica*, *A. spingigera*, *A. superans*, *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: This species is similar in pattern to other members of this group but has a generally darker gray ground color, thicker and more diffuse basal and subterminal dashes, and darker gray filling of the orbicular spot and subterminal line (Schmidt and Anweiler, 2020). Dissection may be needed to separate melanic members of this group.

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: According to Wagner (2005), habitats include fields, power line rights-of-way, and woodlands. Our records come mainly from upland habitats, but we also have them from the barrier islands, Coastal Plain swamp forests, and peatlands.

FOOD: Larvae are stenophagous, feeding on Black Cherry and other members of *Prunus* (Wagner et al., 2011). As of 2024, we have only observed the species feeding on Black Cherry.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 S5

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

COMMENTS: