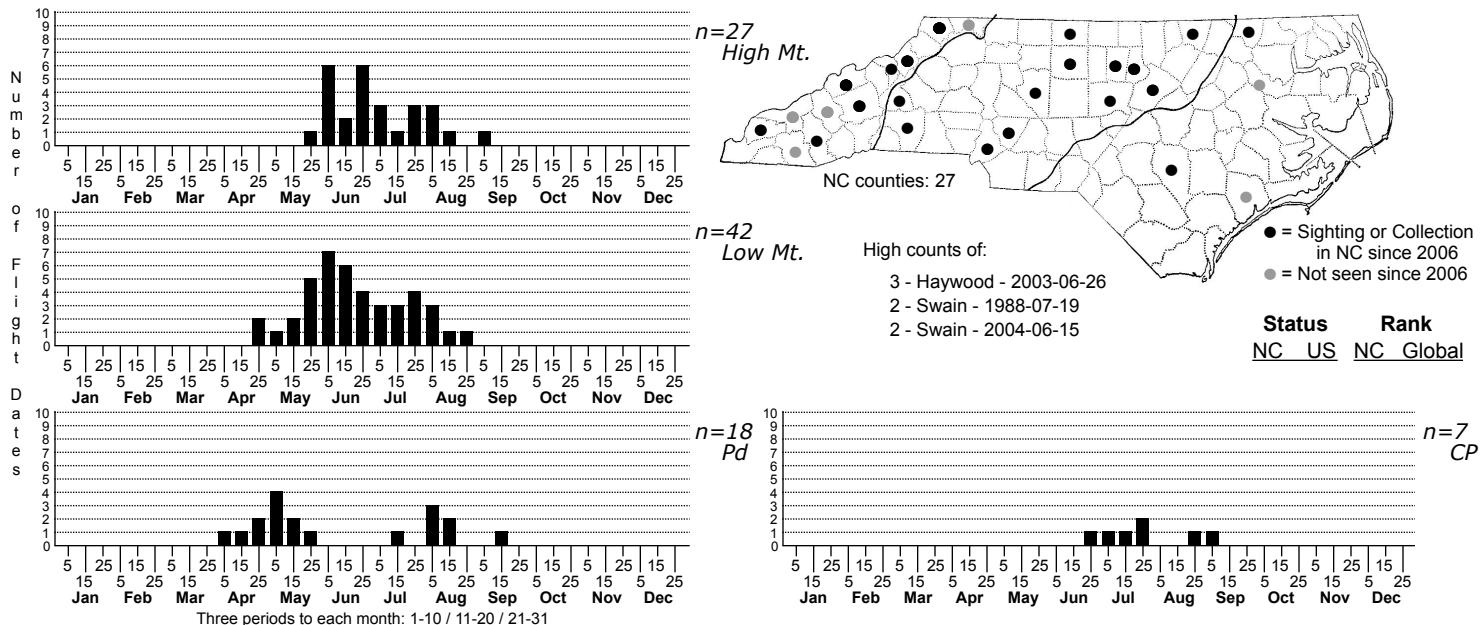


Acronicta morula Ochre Dagger



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. superans*, 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: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: Wagner (2005) lists fields, woodlands, and forest edges as habitat. The majority of our records come from cove forests and northern hardwood forests in the Mountains. In the Piedmont, records come mainly from rich bottomlands. In the Coastal Plain, it has been found in Brownwater river floodplains and a few stands of mesic hardwoods that may be associated with marl.

FOOD: Larvae feed on elms, with only American Elm (*Ulmus americana*) firmly documented in the literature (Schmidt and Anweiler, 2020). A few other species, including apple (*Malus*), basswood (*Tilia*), and hawthorn (*Crataegus*) (Wagner, 2005) have been reported but are questionable. David George observed a caterpillar feeding on Winged Elm (*Ulmus alata*) in Durham County.

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: