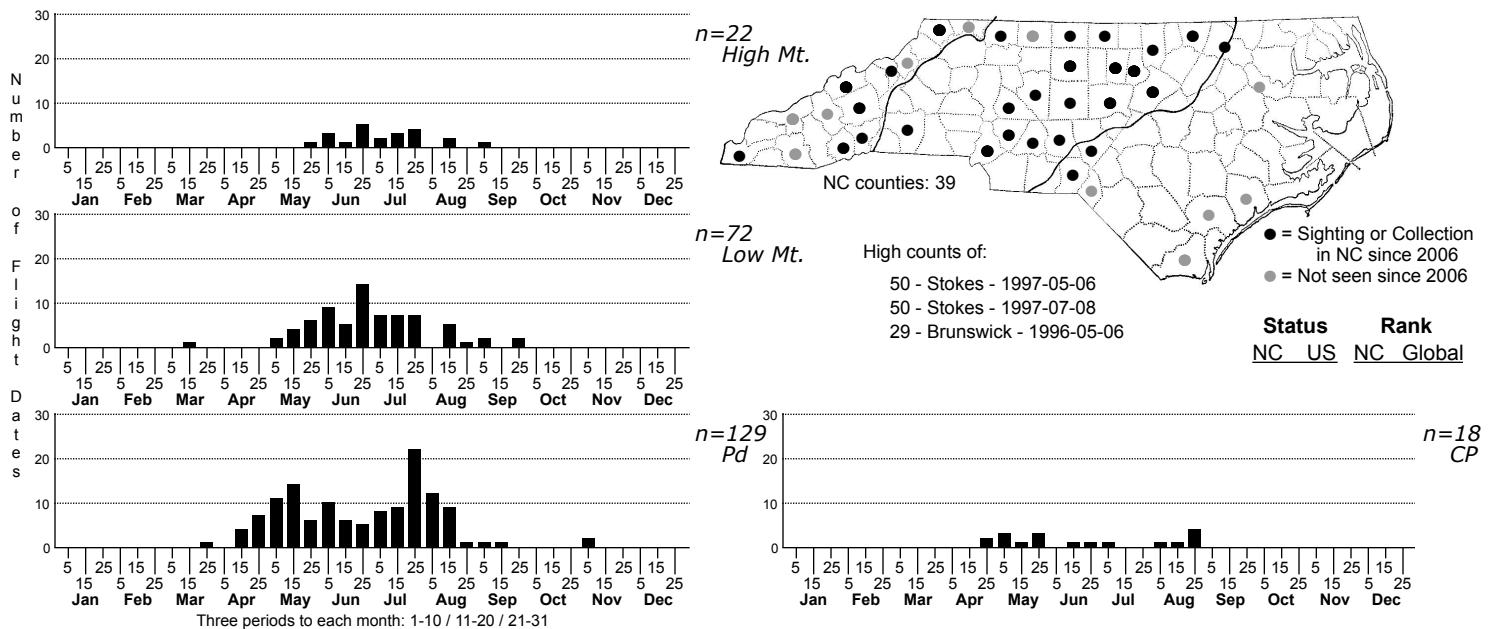


# *Acronicta immodica* Medium Oak Dagger



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 *Lepitotreuma* by Schmidt and Anweiler, and in the *Increta* Species Group. Other members of this group in North Carolina include *A. albarufa*, *A. ovata*, *A. exilis*, *A. modica* (= *A. haesitata*), *A. increta*, and *A. tristis*.

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

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1954, as *A. modica*); Schmidt and Anweiler (2020)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: A medium-sized, fairly uniform gray dagger. The ground color of the forewings is pale gray but more-or-less tinged with yellow; the occipital area of the head and tegulae may also be marked with yellow. The basal area is not darker than the rest of the wing and the antemedian line does not strongly contrast with the ground color. The other transverse lines and outlines of the spots are also fairly diffuse, but the anal dash is typically black and narrowly defined. The hindwings are pale fuscous. *Acronicta modica* (formerly *A. haesitata*) is similar in size and pattern but lacks the yellow tinge on the forewings, has a somewhat darker antemedian, and has more diffuse anal dashes if they are present at all (Forbes, 1954). Neither *A. immodica* nor *A. modica* has a reddish shade at the reniform, which is more characteristic of *A. ovata*, *A. exilis*, *A. increta*, or *A. albarufa*.

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: Our records come mainly from mesic to dry sites but not xeric sites.

FOOD: Larvae have been recorded on White Oak (*Quercus alba*), and probably feed on other oaks (Wagner et al., 2011). We do not have any feeding records in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S4S5]

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

COMMENTS: