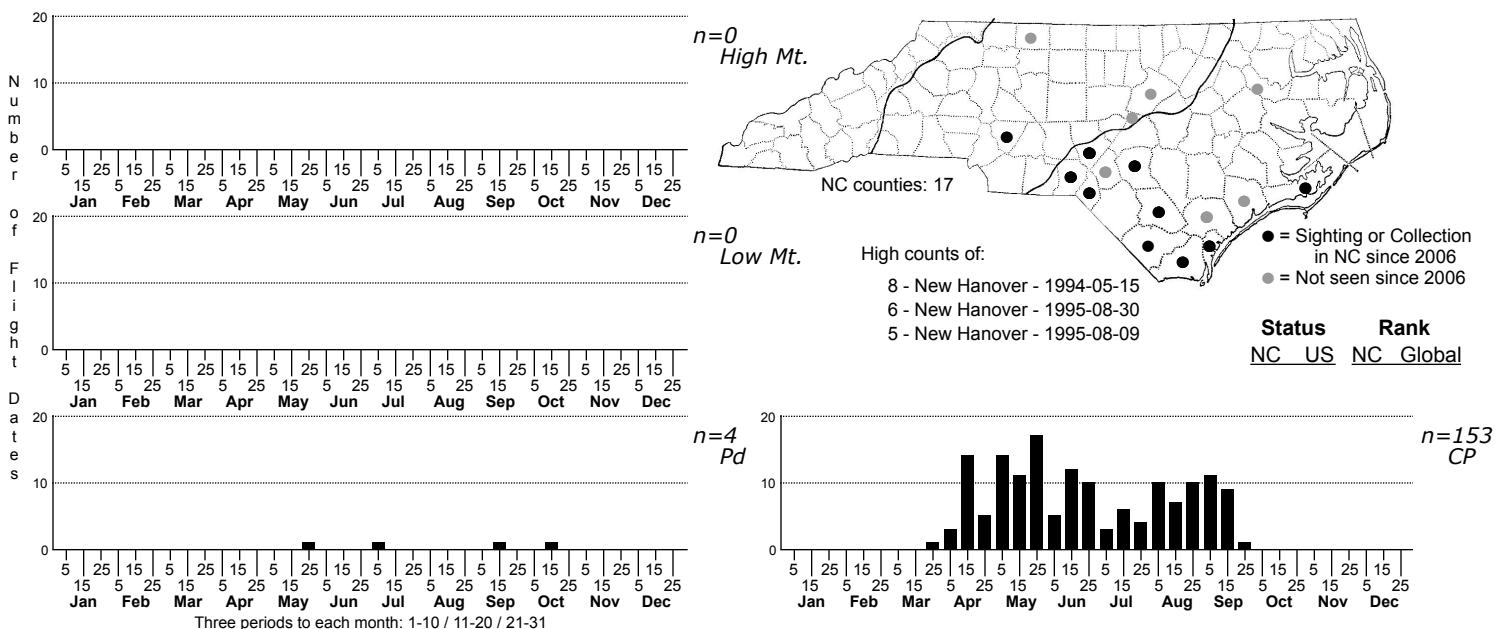


## *Acronicta brumosa* Charred Dagger



**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. Placed in subgenus *Lepitoreuma* by Schmidt and Anweiler (2020), which contains nine species in North Carolina, and further joined by *Acronicta afflicta* to form the *Afflicta* Species Group.

**FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:** Beadle and Leckie (2018)

**ONLINE PHOTOS:**

**TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:** Forbes (1954); Schmidt and Anweiler (2020)

**TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:** Forbes (1954); Wagner et al. (2011); Schmidt and Anweiler (2020)

**ID COMMENTS:** The ground color of the forewings is charcoal- to bluish-gray with no brownish or greenish shading (Forbes, 1954; Schmidt and Anweiler, 2020). A black basal dash is present and the antemedian line is also blackish although somewhat diffuse; an anal and subapical dash may also be present but are usually indistinct and imbedded in areas with darker shading. The orbicular spot is oval in shape and filled with gray. The hindwings are white with veins and subterminal area shaded with dark gray. *Acronicta afflicta* is similar but smaller and usually has a brownish shading and a rounder orbicular spot that has a white filling. *Acronicta impressa* is also similar but has fuscous hindwings and a smaller, rounder orbicular spot with a sharper dark pupil (Schmidt and Anweiler).

**DISTRIBUTION:** Most of our records correspond to the distribution of Turkey Oak in North Carolina, but there are also at least a few records from the western part of the state where some other species of oak -- perhaps Blackjack Oak -- may be the host species.

**FLIGHT COMMENT:** Adults occur throughout the spring and summer, with perhaps two to three peaks in activity

**HABITAT:** Habitats include xeric oak woodlands, barrens, and savannas (Wagner et al., 2011). The vast majority of our records come from xeric sand ridges but we also have records from monadnocks and montane ridges in the western part of the state.

**FOOD:** Larvae have been observed feeding on Turkey Oak (*Quercus laevis*), Blackjack Oak (*Q. marilandica*), and Southern Red Oak (*Q. falcata*) in North Carolina. Heppner (2003) lists a variety of other hosts, including birch, hickory, and willow, but these records require confirmation.

**OBSERVATION METHODS:** Comes fairly well to blacklights but we do not have any records from bait.

**NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS:** G4 SNR [S3S4]

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

**COMMENTS:** Although somewhat specialized, this species occupies habitats that are still fairly widely distributed, particularly in the Fall-line Sandhills and Outer Coastal Plain. Consequently, it is not a high conservation concern in North Carolina.