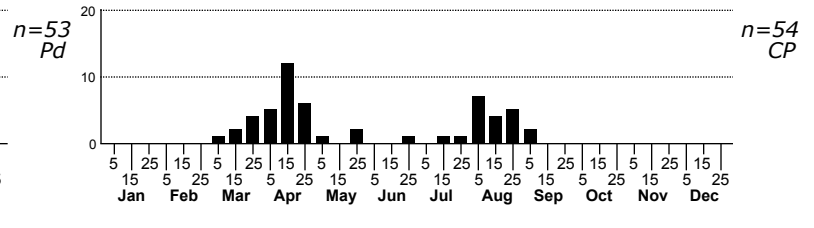
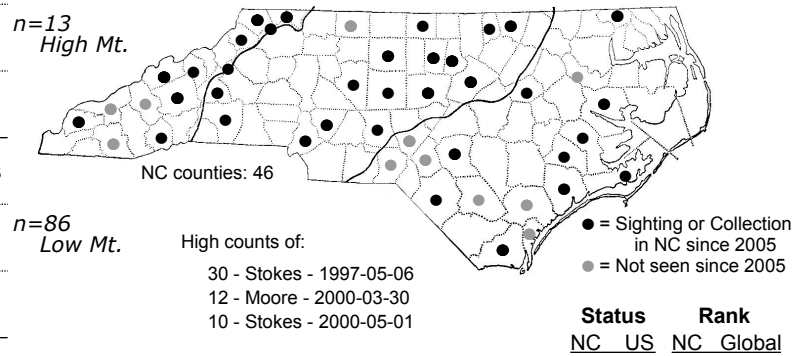
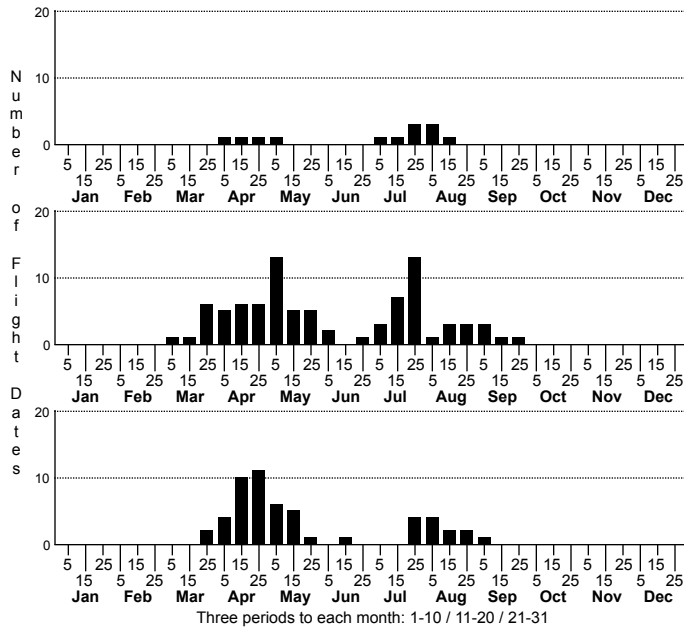


Acronicta impleta Yellow-haired Dagger



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. *Acronicta impleta* is a member of Species Group V of Forbes (1954), which in North Carolina also includes *A. noctivaga*, *A. impressa*, *A. longa*, *A. oblinita*, *A. lanceolaria*, and *A. sinescripta*.

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: The ground color is typically powdery gray and even, lacking strong dark markings or shadings; a melanic form exists, however. The basal, anal, and subapical dashes are absent (Forbes, 1954). The orbicular and reniform are usually completely outlined with a fine black border and are filled with the ground color with a darker center. The antemedian is scalloped, double and filled with the ground color. The postmedian is the most contrasting marking on the forewing: dentate, white-filled and with two lunules in the fold. The subterminal is also represented by a series of white spots. The hindwings are dirty luteous with dark veins and border and lack a defined postmedian line or shade.

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: Wagner et al. (2011) lists fields, woodlands, and forests as habitat. Our records come from the full range of hardwood forests and woodlands that exist in North Carolina, from maritime forests, sandhill scrub, bottomland hardwoods, mesic slopes, and high elevation forests. We do not, however, have records from shrubby peatlands or shrubby maritime dunes.

FOOD: Larvae feed on a wide range of hardwood trees and shrubs. Wagner (2005) lists alder (*Alnus*), ash (*Fraxinus*), birch (*Betula*), blueberry (*Vaccinium*), cherry (*Prunus*), dogwood (*Cornus*), elm (*Ulmus*), hickory (*Carya*), maple (*Acer*), mountain-ash (*Sorbus*), oak (*Quercus*), *Sassafras*, tupelo (*Nyssa*), walnut (*Juglans*), and willow (*Salix*). In North Carolina, we have observed the species feeding on oak, including Willow Oak (*Q. phellos*) and Black Oak (*Q. velutina*), and have seen larvae on a variety of other hardwood trees, including ash and Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*). J.B. Sullivan also reared a larva from Sourwood (*Oxydendrum arboreum*).

OBSERVATION_METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S5]

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

COMMENTS: