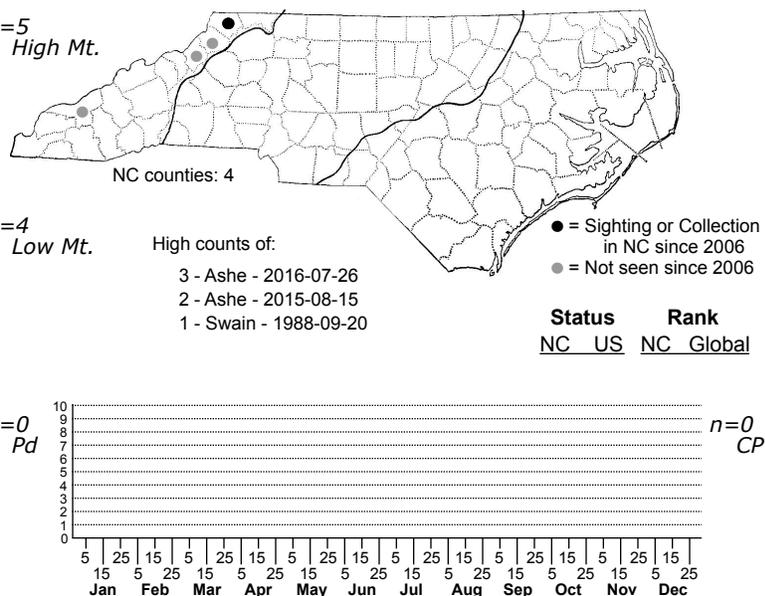
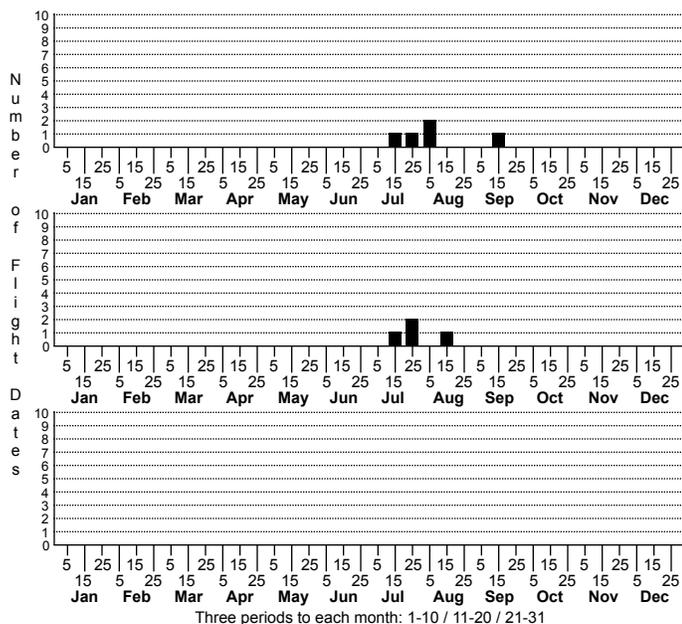


## *Acronicta impressa* Impressive Dagger



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

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: 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 powdery gray, with the fold heavily marked with black (*impressa* as described by Forbes, 1954) or broken into a basal dark wedge followed by a dark oblong bar in the median area ("distans"). A melanic form ("scintillans") also occurs. The lines are normal, with dark outlines and pale filling. The same is true for the orbicular and reniform spots, which typically have a dark center.

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: Wagner et al. (2011) list edges of watercourses, fields, meadows, powerlines, and forest edges as habitats used by this species. Our records come from cove forests and high elevation hardwoods.

FOOD: Larvae feed on a wide range of hardwood trees and shrubs belonging to several different families Wagner et al. (2011) report that willow (*Salix*) and poplar (*Populus*) appear to be commonly used, but larvae have also been recorded on alder (*Alnus*), apple (*Malus*), beech (*Fagus*), birch (*Betula*), blueberry (*Vaccinium*), cherry (*Prunus*), elm (*Ulmus*), hazel (*Corylus*), larch (*Larix*), oak (*Quercus*), serviceberry (*Amelanchier*), and Witch-hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*), as well as dogbane (*Apocynum*), Sweet-gale (*Myrica gale*), meadowsweet (*Spiraea*), currant (*Ribes*), blackberry (*Rubus*), and rose (*Rosa*). We do not have any feeding records in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION\_METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 SNR [S2S3]

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

COMMENTS: