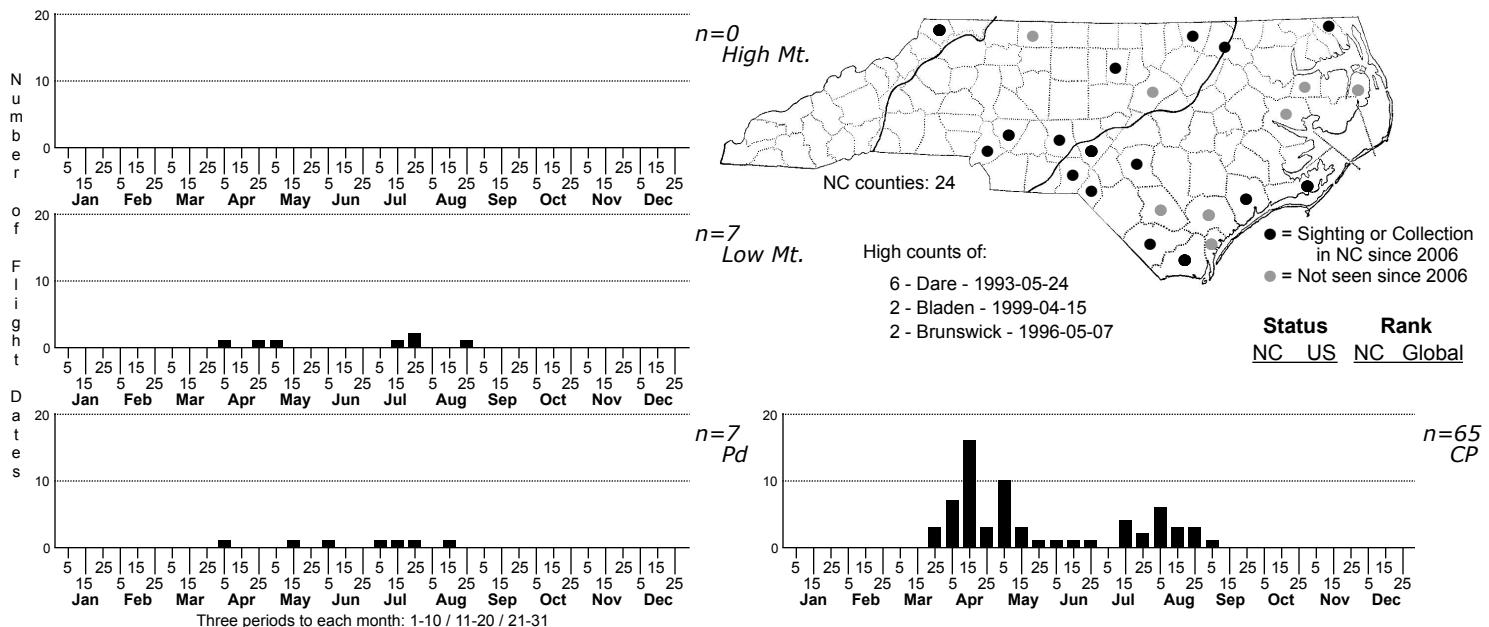


# *Acronicta longa* Long-winged Dagger



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

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: Wagner et al. (2011) list dry woods, barrens, prairies, and dry fields as habitats used by this species. Most of our records in the Coastal Plain match that description, coming from dune grasslands, savannas, flatwoods, and sand ridges. In the Mountains, however, our records come from alluvial forests, coves, and high elevation hardwood forests. Piedmont records are sparse but come from lakeshores and mesic slopes.

FOOD: Larvae feed on a wide range of hardwoods, shrubs, and vines. Wagner et al. (2011) specifically list alder (*Alnus*), birch (*Betula*), cherry (*Prunus*), oak (*Quercus*), rose (*Rosa*), blackberry (*Rubus*), and willow (*Salix*). In North Carolina, we have a feeding record for firethorn (*Pyracantha*), but more research is needed to determine which host species are utilized in our state.

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: