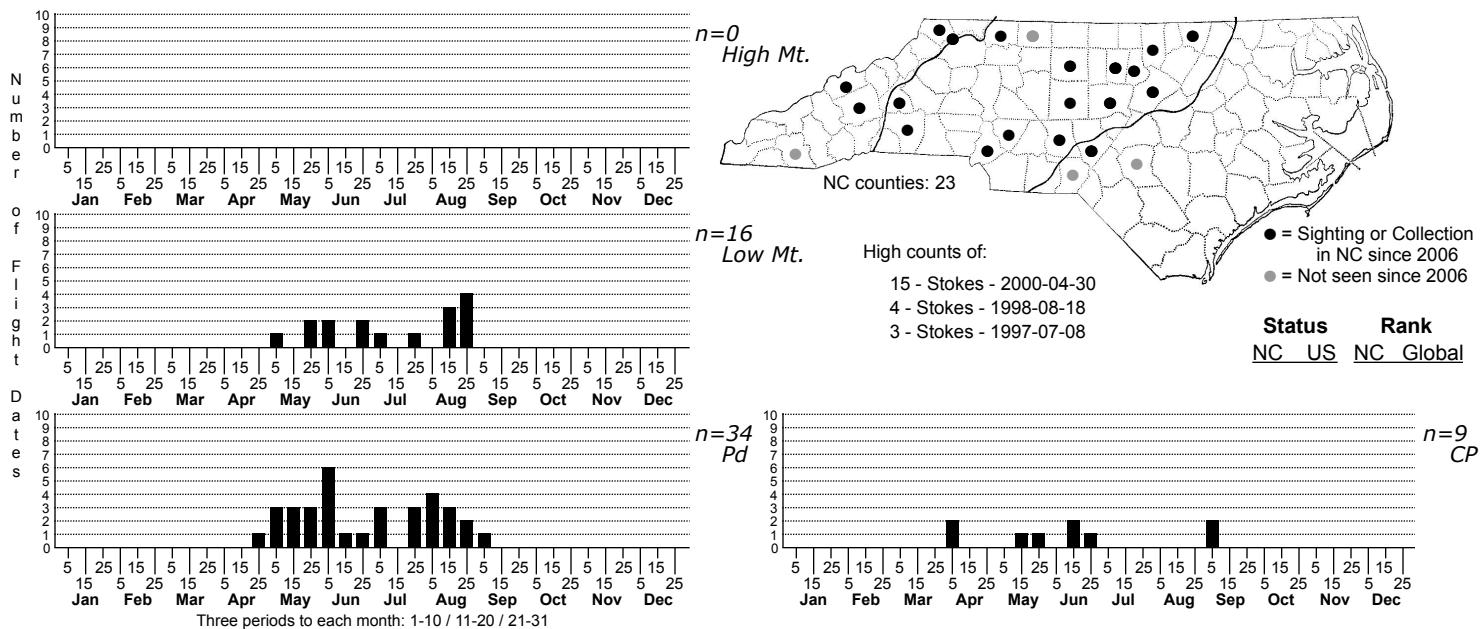


Acronicta lithospila Streaked Dagger



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 *Agriopodes* by Schmidt and Anweiler, and in the *Hasta* Species Group. Other members of this group in North Carolina include *Acronicta hamamelis*, *A. innotata*, *A. betulae*, *A. radcliffei*, *A. hasta*, *A. interrupta*, *A. laetifica*, *A. spinigera*, *A. superans*, *A. morula*, and *A. lobeliae*.

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: Found in barrens and dry oak forests throughout its range (Wagner et al., 2011). North Carolina records come from dry forests, including sandhills in the Coastal Plain, monadnocks in the Piedmont, and dry ridges in the Mountains. A few come from more mesic oak forests.

FOOD: Larvae are oligophagous, feeding primarily on oaks (*Quercus*), but are also reported to use chestnut (*Castanea*), hickory (*Carya*), and walnut (*Juglans*) (Wagner et al., 2011). In North Carolina, we have observed the species feeding on Willow Oak (*Quercus phellos*).

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: