**Spilosoma congrua**  Agreeable Tiger Moth

**FAMILY:** Erebidae  **SUBFAMILY:** Arctiinae  **TRIBE:** Arctiini

**TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:** One of eight species in this genus found in North America, four of which have been recorded in North Carolina.

**FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:** Covell (1984); Beadle and Leckie (2012)

**ONLINE PHOTOS:** MPG, Bugguide, BAMONA

**TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:** Forbes (1960)

**TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:** Forbes (1960); Wagner (2005)

**ID COMMENTS:** White with a variable amount of black spotting, ranging from all white to moderately spotted. In more heavily marked individuals, a broken postmedian line is present with spots also located in the medial and sub-terminal areas. The abdomen is pure white, which distinguishes congrua from most other species of Spilosoma in our area -- the others have patterns of black spots and yellow or orange patches on the upper side of their abdomens. In much of the state, photographs that show the abdomen can be used to distinguish between these species, although in the Mountains, latipennis -- which also has an all white abdomen -- can only be reliably separated from congrua by the color of the fore-legs. Hyphantria cunea is very similar in coloration to S. congrua but is usually much smaller and slimmer and occasionally much more heavily spotted.

**DISTRIBUTION:** Probably occurs statewide

**FLIGHT COMMENT:** Adults are present throughout most of the growing season, with perhaps three peaks in abundance in the Piedmont and Coastal Plain

**HABITAT:** Occurs in a wide variety of open and forested habitats across the state, including dune grasslands on the barrier islands (at least at Jockey's Ridge); Longleaf Pine savannas, flatwoods, and sandhills; peatlands; floodplains; and mesic- to dry- hardwood forests in the Piedmont and Mountains.

**FOOD:** Polyphagous, like other members of this genus, feeding on a wide range of herbaceous and woody plants (Forbes, 1960; Wagner, 2005).

**OBSERVATION_METHODS:** Comes well to blacklights but not at all to bait

**NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS:** G5 [S5]

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

**COMMENTS:** This is one of our most abundant and ubiquitous species, occurring in most open and wooded habitats across the state. It appears to be quite secure.