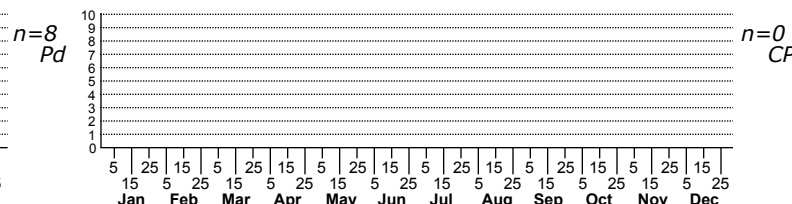
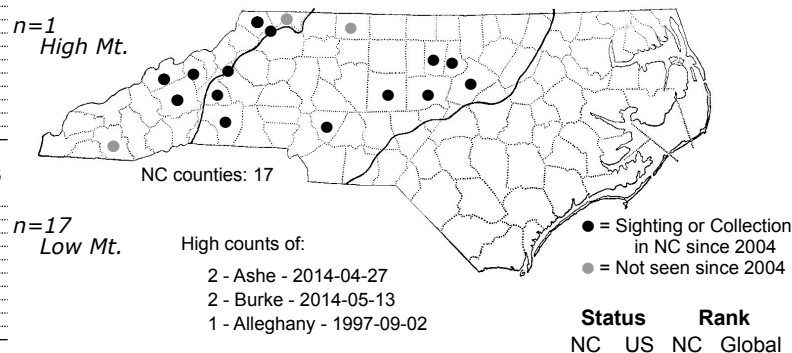
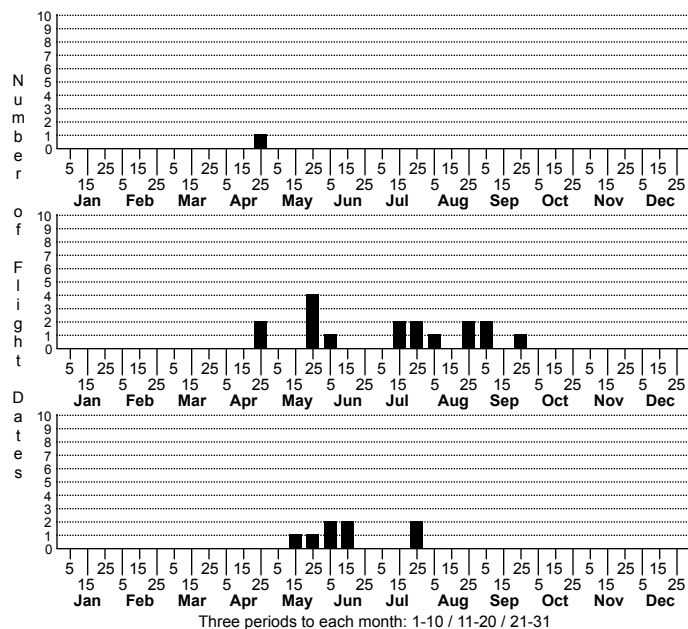


## *Acronicta radcliffei* Radcliffe's Dagger



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 radcliffei* is a member of Species Group II of Forbes (1954), which includes 17 additional species in North Carolina.

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: A medium-sized, pale gray Dagger. The ground color is a smooth pale gray, crossed by fine black lines. The postmedian is even or slightly scalloped only above M1; the outer portion is black but the inner line is gray and non-contrasting (Forbes, 1954). The basal dash crosses the antemedian and the outer portion of the antemedian runs nearly straight across towards the costa. The orbicular is large and both the orbicular and reniform are only partially bordered with black; no bar connects the two spots. Anal dashes are fine and black but apical dashes are absent. The hindwings are fuscous. *Acronicta interrupta* and *A. spinigera* are similar in size and appearance but have more strongly dentate, doubled postmedian lines, spots that are more completely outlined with black, and usually well-marked apical dashes.

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: Our records come from hardwood habitats, including uplands and riparian

FOOD: Larvae are oligophagous, feeding on cherry and other woody members of the Rosaceae. Wagner et al. (2011) list apple (*Malus*), chokecherry (*Aronia*), hawthorn (*Crataegus*), mountain-ash (*Sorbus*), and serviceberry (*Amelanchier*). The HOSTS database also lists ash, elm, and willow (Robinson et al., 2010). In North Carolina, we have observed the species feeding on Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*) and American Mountain-ash (*Sorbus americana*).

OBSERVATION METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 S4

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

COMMENTS: