Acronicta noctivaga   Night-Wandering Dagger

n=2
High Mt.

n=21
Low Mt.

n=2
Pd

n=3
CP

NC counties: 12

High counts of:

3 - Haywood - 2002-04-12
2 - Ashe - 2021-07-28
1 - Brunswick - 1994-04-11

● = Sighting or Collection in NC since 2004
● = Not seen since 2004

Status   **Rank**
NC   US   NC   Global

Three periods to each month: 1-10 / 11-20 / 21-31
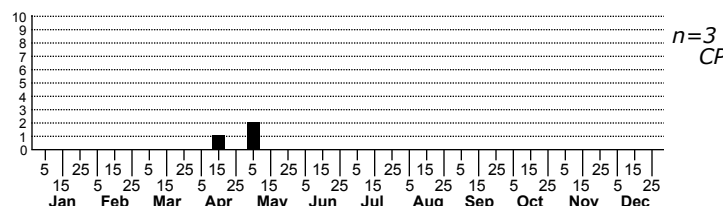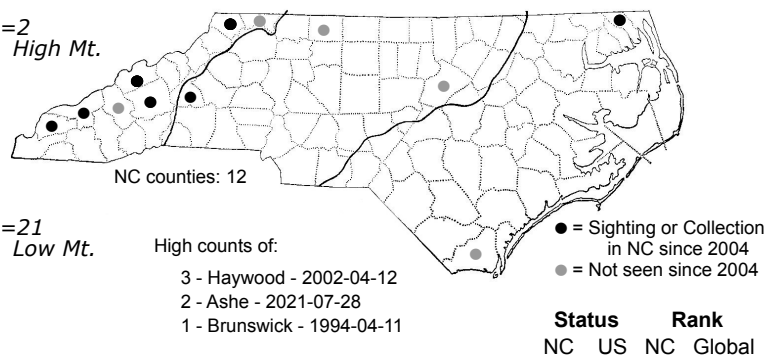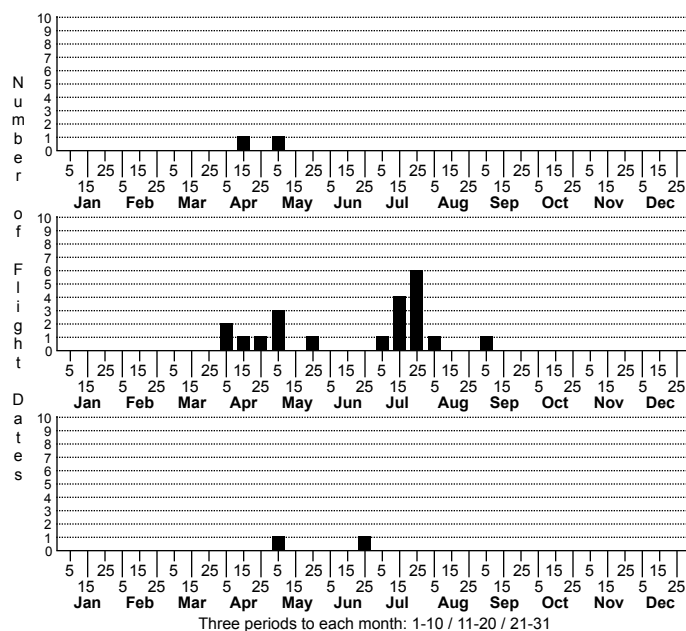
FAMILY: Noctuidae   SUBFAMILY: Acronictinae   TRIBE:

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 noctivaga* is a member of Species Group V of Forbes (1954), which in North Carolina also includes *A. impleta*, *A. impressa*, *A. longa*, *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: Found primarily at lower elevations in the mountains, it also occurs in at least a few locations along the coast, but is apparently absent from most of the state.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Please refer to the flight charts.

HABITAT: Wagner et al. (2011) list barrens, floodplains, woodlands, and forest edges as habitats used by this species. In the Mountains, our records come mainly from alluvial and cove forests, but also from high elevation summits. In the Piedmont, records come lake shores and in the Coastal Plain from swamps.

FOOD: Smith and Dyar (1898, p. 258) state that host plants are "Poplar; also various low plants." Tim McCabe (cited in Wagner et al., 2011) found a larva on Meadowsweet (*Spiraea*) and reared this species both on that plant as well as cherry. While Meadowsweet may be used in the mountains, it does not occur in the Piedmont and coastal plain, where cottonwoods seem more likely. Robinson et al. (2010) also list Red Oak, dogbane, and *Vaccinium*, but these hosts require confirmation and more research is needed into the host plants that are utilized in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION_METHODS:

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 S2S3

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

COMMENTS: