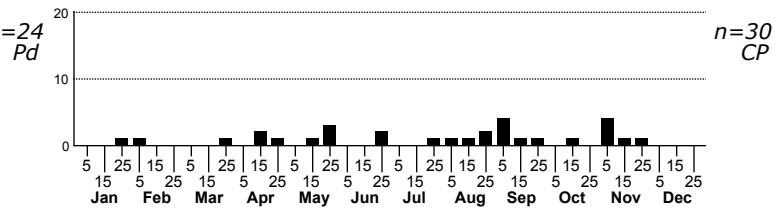
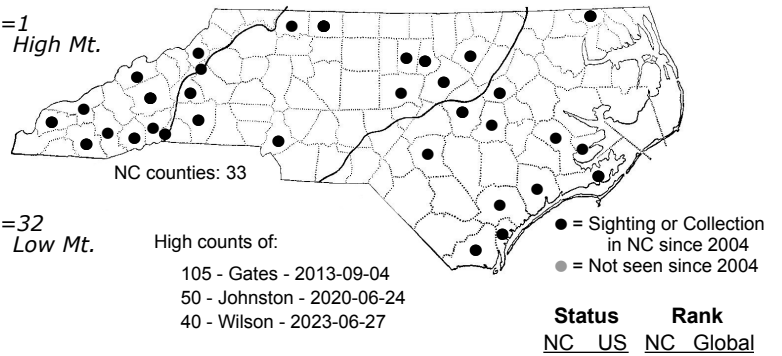
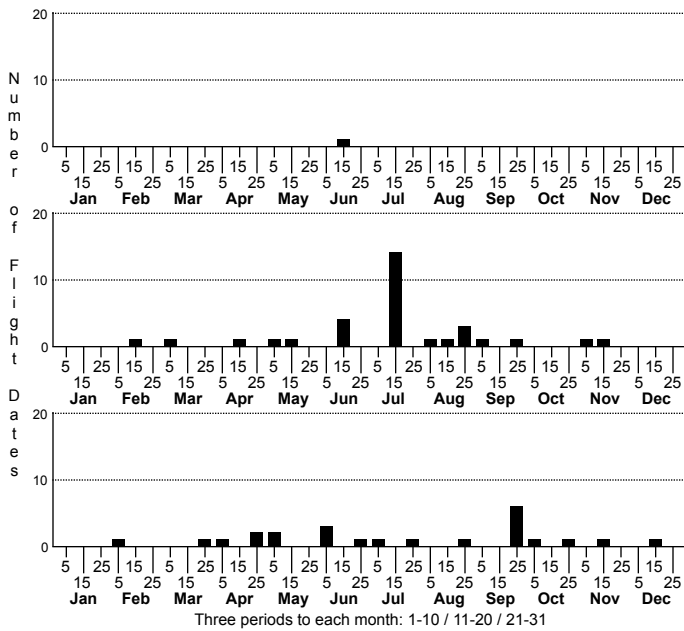


Parasteatoda tepidariorum common house spider



ORDER:ARANEAE INFRAORDER:Araneomorphae
FAMILY:Theridiidae

TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: Described by Koch in 1841 as *Theridion t.*, it has also been named *Therideum t.*, and *Achearana t.* Its placement in *Parasteatoda* based on its secondary genital organs (Saaristo, 2006) is considered "controversial" (Eberhard, 2020) by some, and thus may be considered fluid at this writing (Jan 2021).

FLD_GUIDE_DESCRIPTIONS: The prosoma is tan to dark brown. The opisthosoma is highly variable in colors and markings. Some are very pale tan, with scattered markings of white and brown. Others are almost black, with white and tan speckling. A faint white marking that resembles square brackets is sometimes on the dorsal opisthosoma. Crescent-shaped, dark brown to black marking is just over halfway down the opisthosoma. The legs are banded, to a lesser degree in the males. This species looks very similar to *Parasteatoda tabulata* and easily misidentified as such. To confirm a species-level identification, one would need to look at the genitalia under a microscope. (Rose, 2022)

DISTRIBUTION_COMMENTS: One of the most widely distributed species worldwide, it's ubiquitous in the US and Canada. (Bradley, 2013)

HABITAT: rock outcrops, buildings, windows, corners of rooms.