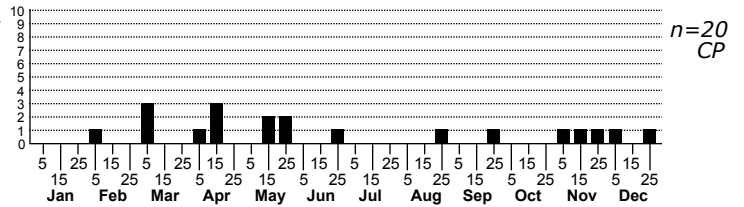
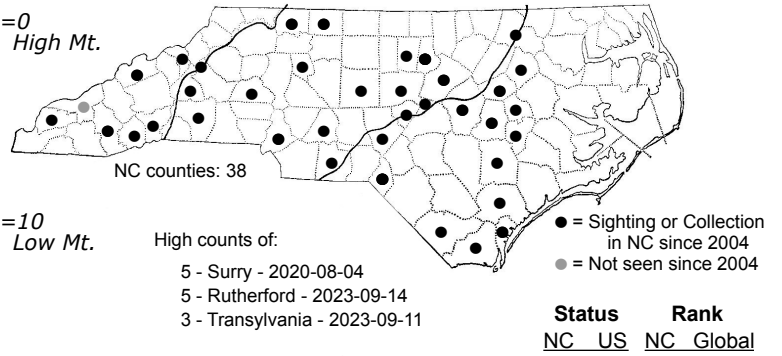
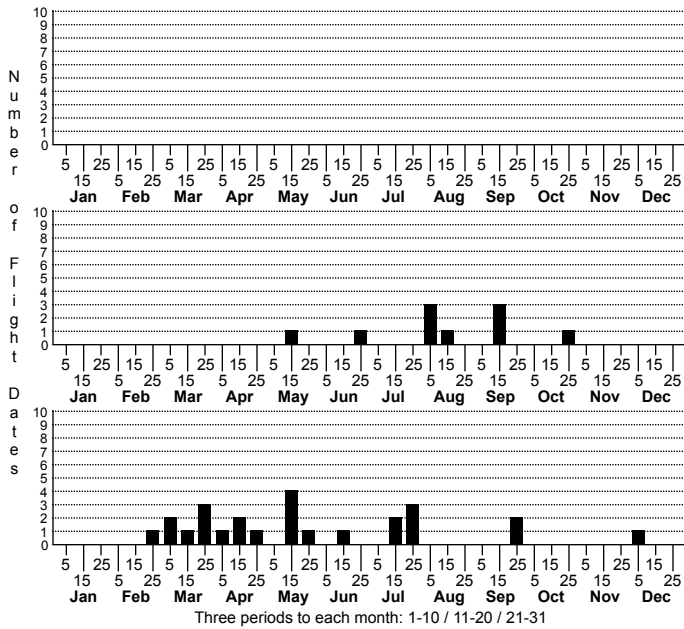


Mecaphesa asperata Northern crab spider



ORDER:ARANEAE INFRAORDER:Araneomorphae
FAMILY:Thomisidae

TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: This species was originally described by Walckenaer in 1837 as *Thomisus asperatus* (Latin, meaning "rough"). During the 19th Century, it was placed in the genera *Misumena*, *Misumessus* and *Misumenops* (subsequently remaining in the third of those genera throughout the 20th Century). In 2008 Lehtinen and Marusik redefined *Mesuminops*, and placed *asperata* (and some other species) in *Mecaphesa*.

FLD_GUIDE_DESCRIPTIONS: "The prosoma is yellow to tan and occasionally looks pale green, with a pair of broad brown lines on either side of the midline. There are numerous spines on the surface, giving it a somewhat hairy appearance. The opisthosoma is yellow, with red to brown spots. A V-shaped marking in pale white to yellow starts at the anterior and opens toward the posterior. The legs are pale yellow and have lots of small dark spots. The legs are unbanded in the female, while the males have dark red rings at each joint. The legs are proportionally much longer in the males than the females." (Rose, 2022)

DISTRIBUTION_COMMENTS: Nationwide, and into southern Canada

HABITAT: old field, bog