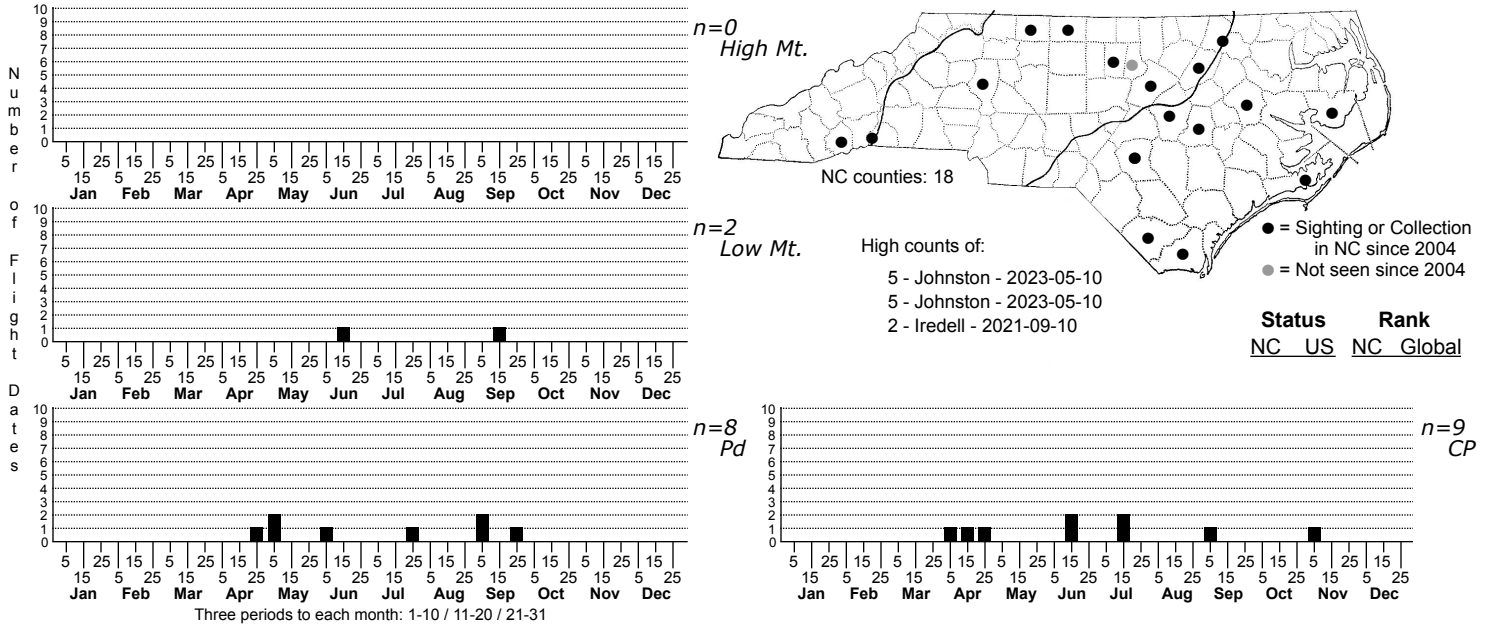


Mecaphesa celer Swift crab spider



ORDER:ARANEAE INFRAORDER:Araneomorphae
 FAMILY:Thomisidae

TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: This species was originally described with two different specific epithets in the genus *Thomisus* by Walckenaer in 1837, but neither of those names was commonly used. In 1847, Hentz described it as *T. celer* (Latin, meaning "swift"), and as this epithet was referenced frequently it was thus declared "protected" and has remained. After surviving another 9 synonymous names, *celer* was placed in the genus *Misumenops*, where it remained until 2008 when Lehtinen and Marusik redefined *Mesuminops*, and placed *celer* (and some other species) in *Mecaphesa*.

FLD_GUIDE_DESCRIPTIONS: "The prosoma is pale green and has an off-white X marking near the fovea. There are darker submarginal bands, which can be a little darker than the coloration of the rest of the prosoma or brown. The eyes are on white tubercles. The male prosoma has a red line around the edge. Both the prosoma and opisthosoma have many erect dark spines. The opisthosoma is cream to pale yellow. There is an indistinct tan-colored heartmark, and tan stripes run down the lateral edges. Paired blotches of dark brown to black are on the posterior half of the opisthosoma; these often shift to brown or reddish brown the more posterior they are. The legs are pale green. The females lack any markings on the legs. The males have red spots where there are spines and red bands on the distal tibiae of legs I and II." (Rose, 2022)

DISTRIBUTION_COMMENTS: Found nationwide and into southern Canada.

HABITAT: Fort Bragg, Cumberland County