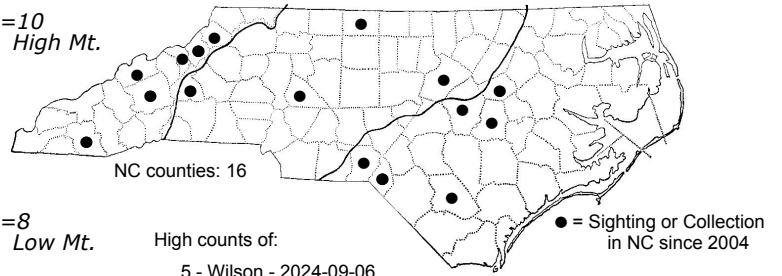
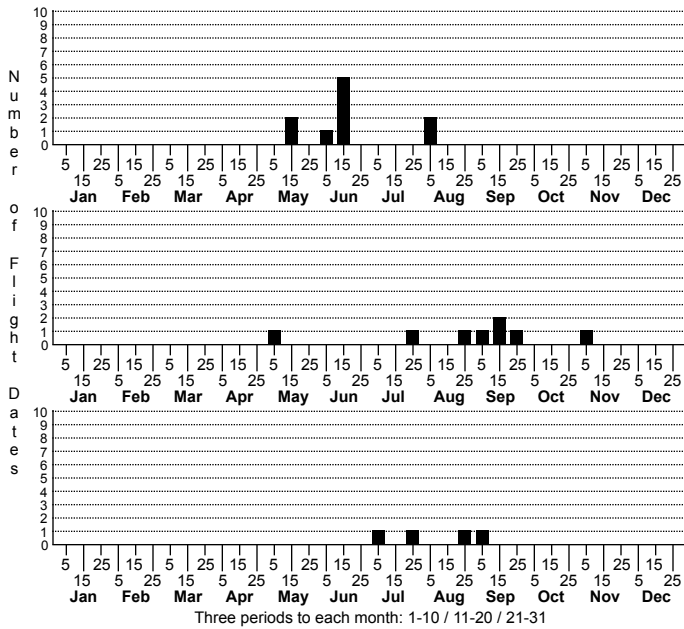
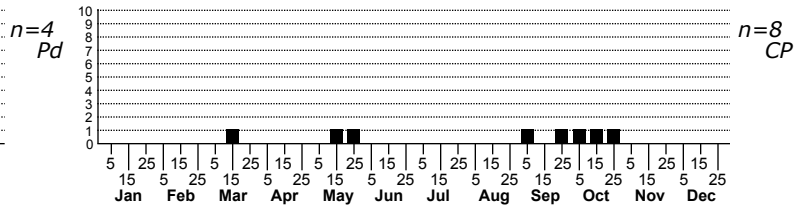


*Misumena vatia* goldenrod crab spider



High counts of:  
 5 - Wilson - 2024-09-06  
 1 - Avery - 2014-06-09  
 1 - Watauga - 2015-06-17

Status	Rank		
NC	US	NC	Global



ORDER:ARANEAE INFRAORDER:Araneomorphae  
 FAMILY:Thomisidae

TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS: Described in 1757 as *vatus* from the Latin *vati*, which can mean either "bow-legged" or "prophet." It was originally placed in the genus *Araneus* (hence the initial "*vatus*" for gender agreement), but back then, almost all spiders were called "*Araneus* something-or-other." In 1804, it was placed in the genus *Misumena* (meaning "being hated"), only to bounce around nomenclaturally with >20 names for the better part of that century. It was ultimately restored to *Misumena* in 1872, where it has remained with only trivial exception.

FLD\_GUIDE\_DESCRIPTIONS: The female prosoma can be white to yellow, sometimes with broad bands of green to brown. The eye region is usually yellow to orange. The female opisthosoma is yellow to white. When yellow, a pair of green bands may start near the pedicel and run along the lateral edge to about halfway down. If the opisthosoma is white, pink to red bands may be located in this area. The legs are white to yellow. The male prosoma is purple brown, sometimes with a broad pale median band. The eye region is white to pink. The opisthosoma is cream white to yellow, with brown spots on either side of the midline toward the posterior; there is a dark ring around the lateral edges of brown to red. The first two pairs of legs are purple brown, and sometimes there is pale banding on the distal segments. The legs are proportionally much longer in the males than the females. The other legs are yellow. The spiders use the spines on the first two pairs of legs to help them grab their prey. (Rose, 2022)

DISTRIBUTION\_COMMENTS: Found nationwide, well into Canada and North to Alaska.

HABITAT: old field, forest