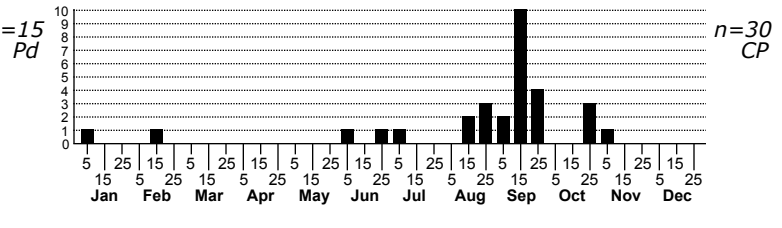
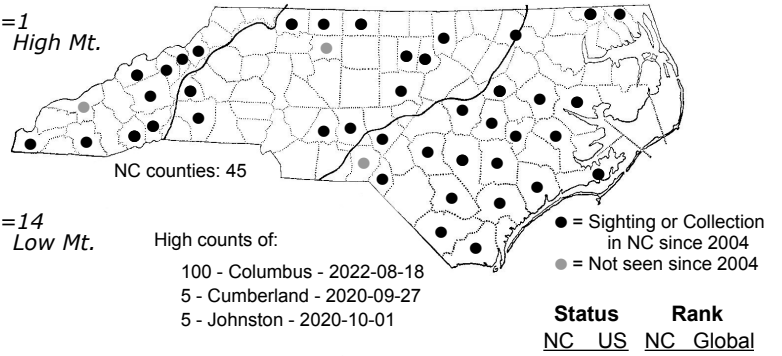
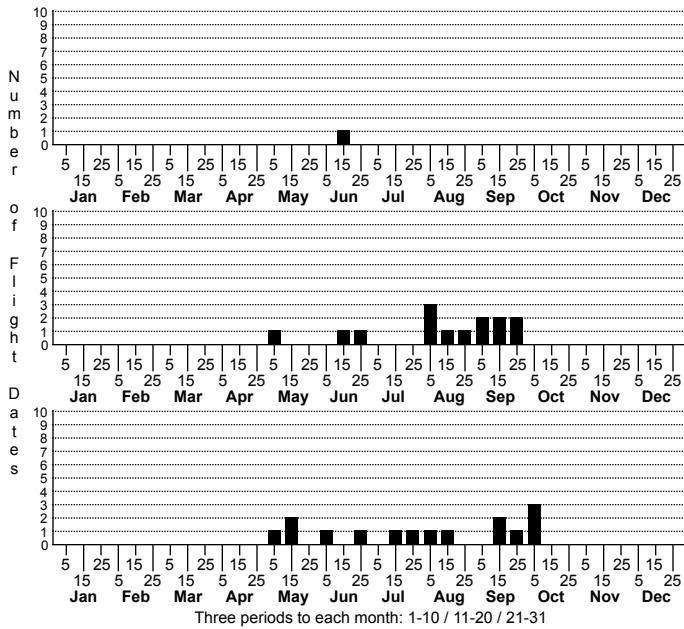


Misumenoides formosipes whitebanded crab spider

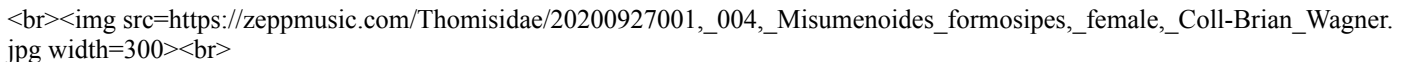


ORDER:ARANEAE INFRAORDER:Araneomorphae
 FAMILY:Thomisidae

TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: Walckenaer first described this species in 1837 as *Thomisus formosipes*, but in the very same publication he referenced *T. flavescens* 15 pages later, and then another 10 pages later mentioned *T.pardus*, each of which was ultimately synonymized with *formosipes*, its being the first name used in that one publication. Ten years later, Hentz sympathized with the difficulty of differentiating among these crab spiders, and lumped them together as *T. aleatorius*.

The *aleatorius* epithet stuck with the species for almost a century until Chamberlin and Ivie considered it to be a synonym of *formosipes*, belonging in Petrunkevitch's 1911 genus *Misumenoides*, where it has been since 1965.

FLD_GUIDE_DESCRIPTIONS: "The female prosoma is white to yellow and sometimes has a pair of submarginal bands that vary from green to brown. **Along the clypeus, a carina (transverse ridge) that is white to yellow extends posteriorly** [emphasis added].



The opisthosoma varies from white to yellow, occasionally pink to lavender. Brown to red spots may be on the dorsal surface in a V shape that opens toward the posterior. A pair of brown bands may also be on the lateral edge, starting at the pedicel and ending about halfway down the length. The legs are white to yellow and can be unbanded or have dark brown bands at the patella and distal tibia, while the remaining segments are dark brown. The male prosoma is green to orange. The carina is present and usually easy to see on the darker-colored prosoma. The opisthosoma ranges from red to yellow. The first two pairs of legs are very dark, almost black. The other legs are green to yellow. The legs are proportionally much longer in the males than the females. These spiders use the spines on the first two pairs of legs to help them grab their prey. This species also has been reported to change color to match the environment." (Rose, 2022)

DISTRIBUTION_COMMENTS: Nationwide, extending north into southern and pacific Canada

HABITAT: old field, bog; often on flowers