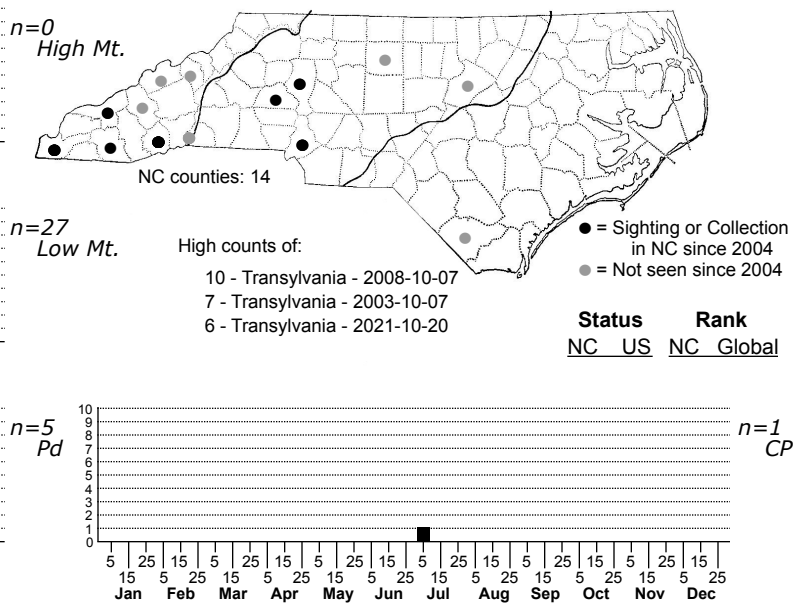
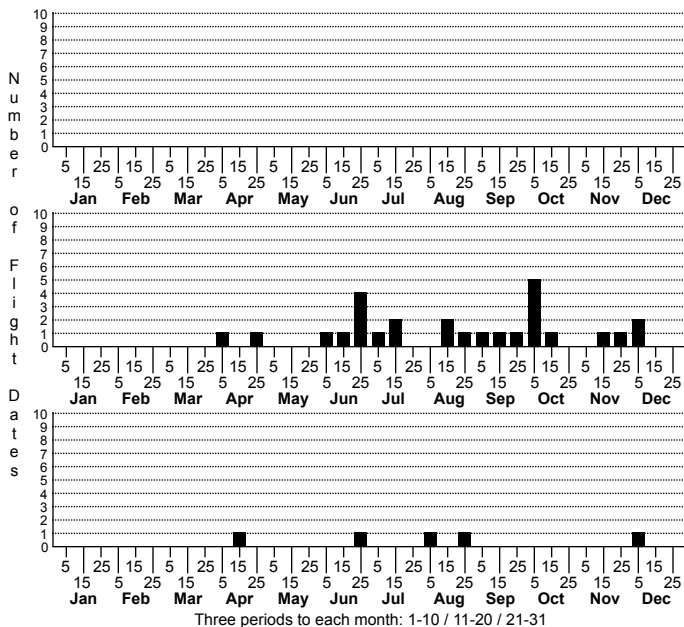


Vaejovis carolinianus Southern Unstriped Scorpion



ORDER: SCORPIONES

FAMILY: Vaejovidae

TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: One of 66 species in this genus, all of which are North or Central American (Sissom, 2000). *Carolinianus* is the sole species that occurs east of the Mississippi. According to Sissom (2000), this genus is not monophyletic, indicating that several new genera should be eventually described. Sissom includes *carolinianus* in the *Mexicanus* Species Group, which includes the type species of this genus (*mexicanus*) but also appears to be heterogeneous and thus likely to be split and given new genus names.

ONLINE_PHOTOS: BugGuide

DISTRIBUTION_COMMENTS: The stronghold of this species in North Carolina appears to be the low mountains in the southwest corner of the state. While it may be resident in at least the western Piedmont, records from Wake County in the eastern Piedmont and Columbus County in the southern Coastal Plain may represent artificial introductions (Shelley, 1994).

HABITAT: Shelley (1994) stated that he typically finds this species associated with pine logs and stumps. He cites Gibbons as believing that it is restricted to moist woodlands, but specimens observed in Cherokee County by Hall (see Schwartzman et al., 2015) were all found on ridge tops, where they appeared to be fairly common. The habitat in that area was originally dominated by short-leaf and scrub pines but was succeeding to white pines due to fire suppression and attacks on the yellow pines by Southern Pine Beetles. While the habitat did not appear to be exceptionally xeric, neither did it appear to be mesic. This species is occasionally found in buildings where they may have been transported on firewood.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: Usually found by turning over logs or stripping off their bark. A less destructive method involves looking for this species at night using a blacklight; as in other scorpions, this species is highly fluorescent. This species is capable of producing a painful sting, and should accordingly be collected carefully. However, members of this genus are not believed to be dangerous to humans, at least those that do not have allergic reactions to the venom (the reactions to the venom of this species are apparently unrecorded, Shelley, 1994).

NHP_RANKS: G5 S2?->[S3S4]

NHP_STATUS: W2,W3

STATE_PROTECTION: Arachnids are not protected under state law, although permits are needed to collect them in State Parks and other public and private nature preserves.

STATUS_COMMENTS: This species is currently on the Natural Heritage Program Watch List, meaning that more information is needed before its conservation status can be determined. More surveys -- particularly conducted using blacklights -- need to be conducted throughout its range in order to determine its distribution, abundance, habitat association, population trends and threats.