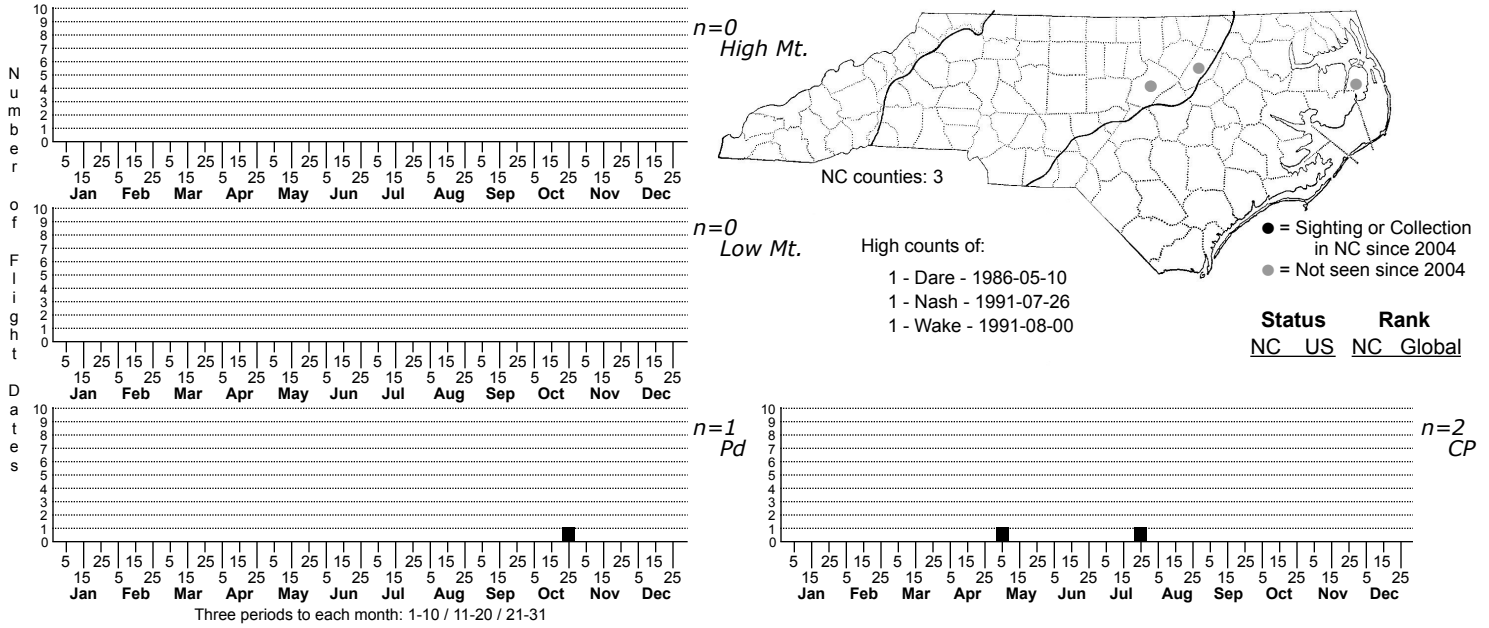


*Centruroides vittatus* Striped Bark Scorpion



ORDER:SCORPIONES  
FAMILY:Buthidae

TAXONOMIC\_COMMENTS: One of 47 species in this completely New World genus (Fet and Graeme, 2000; Valdez-Cruz et al., 2004). Four species occur in North America north of Mexico - three in the East -- and two have been recorded in North Carolina.

DISTRIBUTION\_COMMENTS: Records come only from the eastern Piedmont and Coastal Plain but probably represent individuals accidentally imported on mesquite firewood and could show up anywhere in the state.

HABITAT: Observations of this species are all from buildings or developed areas, particularly near restaurants that make use of mesquite logs for grilling (Shelley, 1994).

OBSERVATION\_METHODS: All North Carolina observations represent random encounters with accidentally introduced individuals. As a poisonous species, it should be collected carefully. Although capable of producing a painful sting, it is apparently not dangerous to humans, at least those that do not have allergic reactions to the venom (Shelley, 1994).

NHP\_RANKS: GNR [SNA]

STATE\_PROTECTION: Arachnids are not protected by state laws in North Carolina and as an introduced species, it is not of any conservation concern.

STATUS\_COMMENTS: This species is a widespread, resident species west of the Mississippi River but populations in the East all probably represent accidental introductions. In some areas, however, these introductions have developed into disjunct populations and there is at least some chance that the same could happen in North Carolina (Shelley, 1994). In its established range, this species occurs as far north as Illinois, suggesting that it could easily survive in at least some areas of North Carolina.