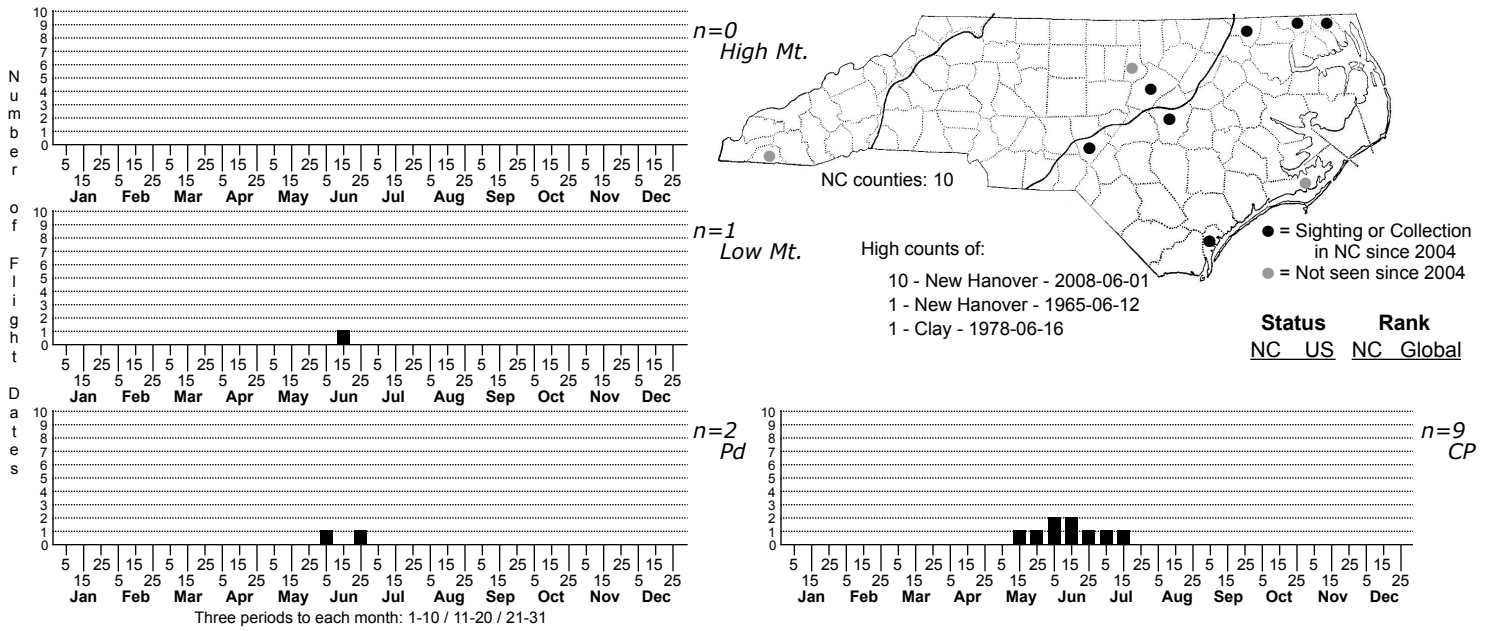


*Sphodros rufipes* redlegged purseweb spider



ORDER:ARANEAE INFRAORDER:Mygalomorphae  
 FAMILY:Atypidae

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: The first mention of *rufipes*, a red-legged purseweb spider as from the US, was by Latreille (1829), written in French, and crediting one "M. Milbert" for its discovery. A few years later, Lucas (1834) repeated this record almost verbatim, but subsequently described and illustrated the same species under the name *bicolor*. He mentioned Latreille's *rufipes* in a footnote and indicated that he did not know whether his species was the same as that of Latreille. <p>

There can be little doubt that Walckenaer (1837) actually had before him Latreille's specimen from somewhere near Philadelphia when he described the species again as *Sphodros milberti*. <p>

In retrospect, it seems almost certain that the names *rufipes*, *bicolor*, and *milberti* were **all** based on the same specimen, a male sent as a gift to the Paris Museum by M. Milbert sometime before 1829 (emphasis added). <p><p>

Paraphrased from Gertsch and Platnick (1980).

FLD\_GUIDE\_DESCRIPTIONS: The female is usually overall dark brown; the male has a very dark brown to black opisthosoma and prosoma, but the legs are bright orange red. *Sphodros fitchi* and *Sphodros atlanticus* also have red legs, but note that in *S. rufipes* the entire femur and distal segments of the legs are red. <p>The purseweb is usually built vertically up the trunk of a small tree. The web is often adorned with debris, helping to camouflage it. The species is often found in forested areas with sandy loam soils. (Rose, 2022)

DISTRIBUTION\_COMMENTS: Eastern US to Texas and Florida. More common in southern states.

HABITAT: Often found in wooded areas with sandy loam soil.