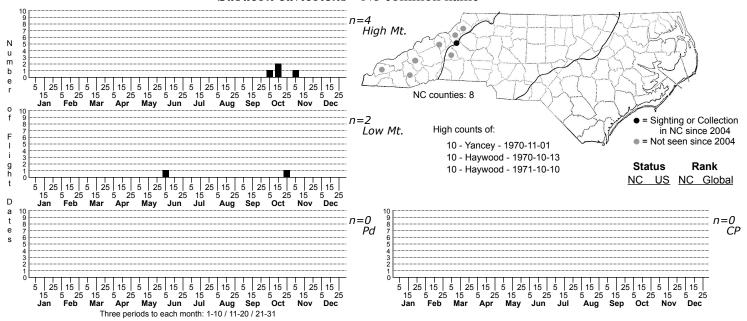
Sabacon cavicolens No common name



ORDER:OPILIONES SUBORDER:Dyspnoi SUPERFAMILY:Ischryopsalidoidea FAMILY:Sabaconidae

TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: One of 11 species in this genus that occur in North America north of Mexico (Cokendolpher and Lee, 1993; Holmberg and Buckle, 2019). Three species occur in the East and two in North Carolina. ONLINE PHOTOS: BugGuide

DISTRIBUTION_COMMENTS: Probably occurs throughout our mountains. This species occurs as far south as South Carolina in the mountains and has been recorded at Greenville in the Piedmont (Hoffman, 1955). It ranges northward in the Appalachians to Virginia but also has populations in the Ohio Valley, the Great Lakes region, and New England (Shear, 1975).

HABITAT: In North Carolina, Shear (1975) reports finding this species in Spruce-fir forests at the highest elevations in our mountains. High humidity appears to be a key habitat factor and at lower elevations, they may be limited to moist shaded forests.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: Shear (1975) reports collecting this species under wet rotten logs or under stones; he never saw any walking on the surface of the leaf litter.

NHP RANKS: GNR [S3S4]

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: As a species associated with cool, moist microclimates in moderate to high elevation forest, Sabacon cavicolens is likely to be vulnerable to the warming, drying impacts of climate change, as well to other environmental disturbances that open up the canopy. These include the depredations of the Balsam Wooly Adelgid, the effect of acidic precipitation, ice storms, and fires. In the past, the widespread destructive clearing of forests for timber probably eliminated populations of this species over a very wide range.