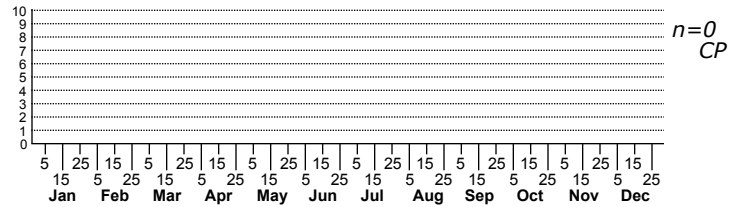
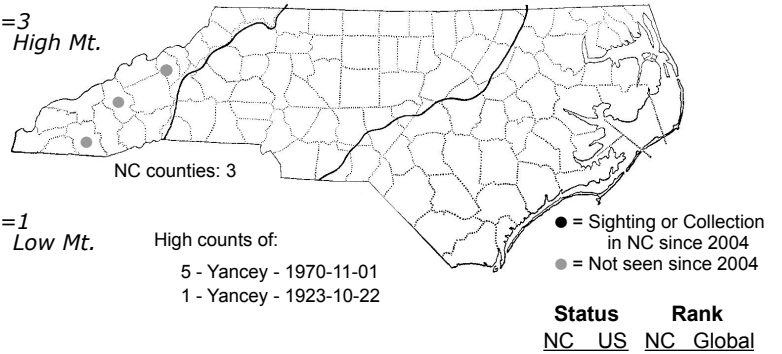
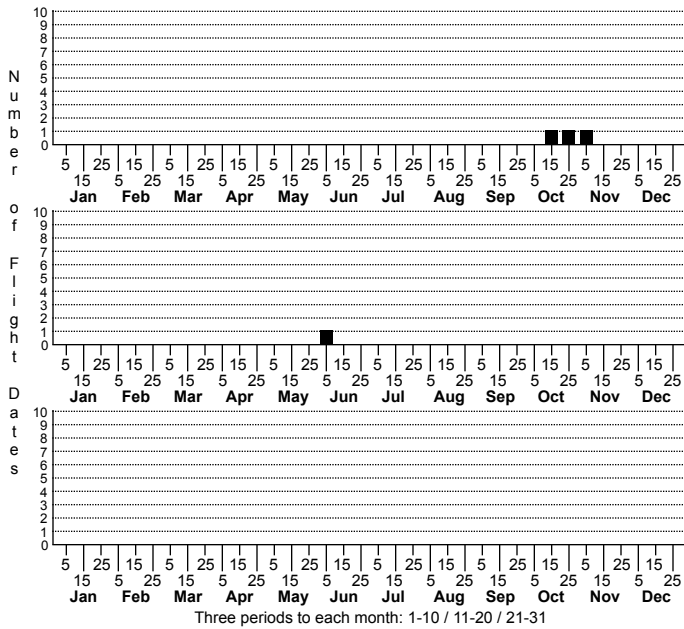


Sabacon mitchelli No common name



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.

DISTRIBUTION_COMMENTS: Appears to be endemic to the North Carolina mountains

HABITAT: Known only from three sites worldwide, two in Spruce-Fir Forests at over 6,000' in elevation and one in a cove forest below 4,000'

OBSERVATION_METHODS: Specimens have been found using direct search under logs and stones; sifting of leaf litter and extraction using Berlese funnels is also useful.

NHP_RANKS: [GNR] [S1S2]

NHP_STATUS: [SR]

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, along *Odiellus nubivagus* and *Microhexura montivaga* were first discovered on an October visit made by Crosby and Bishop in 1923 and subsequently described by those authors. Although all three appear to be narrowly distributed and highly specialized on high elevation habitats in the Southern Appalachians, only the Spruce-Fir Moss Spider has received much notice from conservationists. All three, however, are likely to be similarly affected by the impacts of the Balsam Woolly Adelgid, acid precipitation, and global climate change. While the spider has received a great deal of attention as a federally listed Endangered Species, the other two remain some of the most poorly known species in North America. As in the case of the spider, both of these harvestmen would benefit from more intensive surveys, documenting their overall distribution, habitat needs, and population trends.