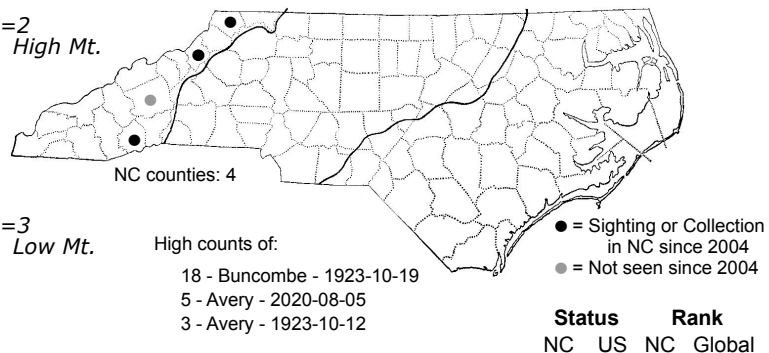
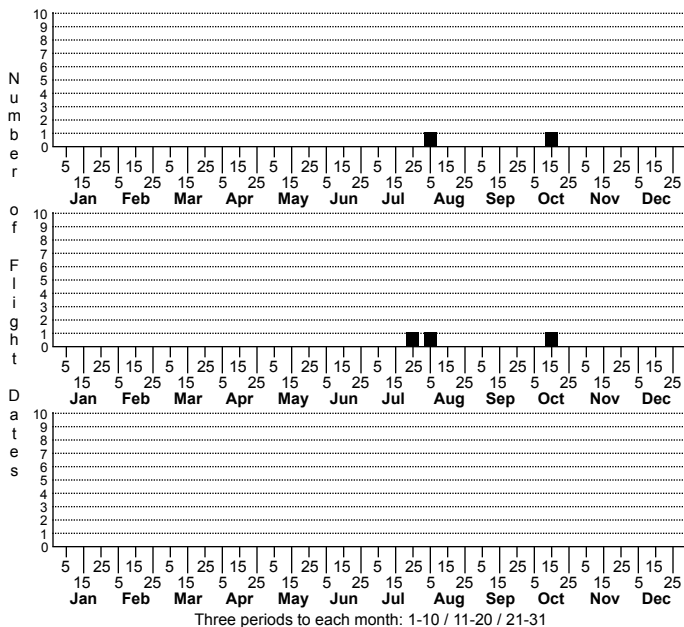


Hesperonemastoma kepharti No common name



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

TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: One of six species in this genus that occur in North America north of Mexico (Cokendolpher and Lee, 1993; Shear, 2010). Four have been recorded in the East with only kepharti found in North Carolina.

ONLINE_PHOTOS: BugGuide does not have any photographs of this species but has them for H. modestum, a Western species, that appears to have similar features

DISTRIBUTION_COMMENTS: There is currently too few records of this species to estimate its distribution within North Carolina. It is almost certainly confined to the mountains, but it has been found in forest habitats at elevations of 3,000-4,000' that are widespread in the western part of the state.

HABITAT: Not recorded but probably mesic hardwoods and possibly either cove forests or northern hardwoods. Unlike other members of this genus, this species does not appear to be a cave-obligate.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: Collected by sifting dead leaves banked against a decaying log (Crosby and Bishop, 1924)

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 is known in North Carolina only from the specimens collected by Crosby and Bishop in 1923. Several of our minute, litter-dwelling harvestmen in the Mountains appear to be highly dependent on moist, forest-floor conditions, making them vulnerable to the warming and drying effects of climate change, as well as other disturbances that open up the forest canopy. The massive timbering and wildfires that took place at the turn of the Twentieth Century is likely to have eliminated many populations, possibly permanently. More surveys are needed, however, to accurately assess the conservation needs of this species.