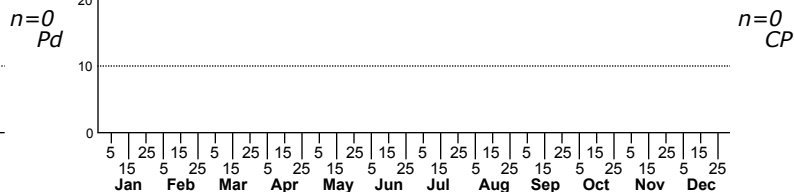
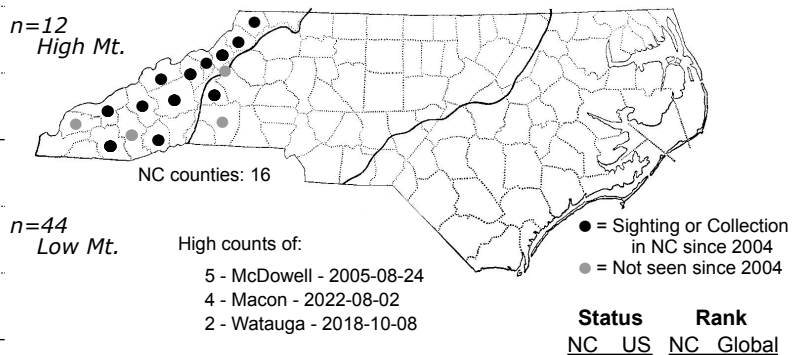
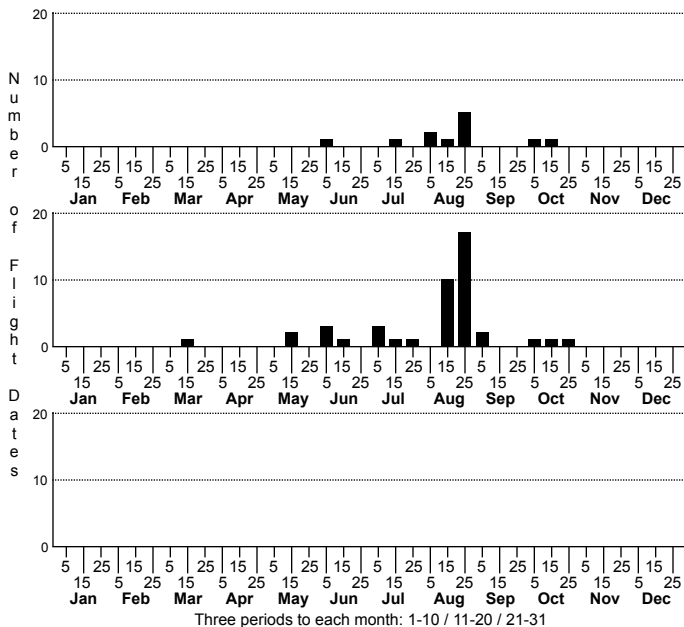


Theromaster brunneus No common name



ORDER:OPILIONES SUBORDER:Laniatores
SUPERFAMILY:Travunioidea FAMILY:Phalangodidae

TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: One of two species in this genus, both of which occur in the East (Kury, 2003) but with only brunneus recorded in North Carolina. Placed in the Travunioidea by Kury (2002), which includes Ereboaster but not Bishopella, which is retained within the Phalangodidae.

ONLINE_PHOTOS: BugGuide

DISTRIBUTION_COMMENTS: This species appears to be restricted to the mountains, where it has been especially widely collected, considering its dwelling deep in the leaf litter

HABITAT: Deep, wet leaf litter, including that under Rhododendrons. Records come from over 6000' at Grandfather Mountain down to below 2000' at Bat Cave.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: Best found by sifting leaf litter or through use of Berlese funnels

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: This is one of the most frequently collected of our montane, cryophilic harvestmen and has a fairly extensive range in the North Carolina mountains. Nonetheless, its habitat specializations probably make it vulnerable to the dessicating impacts associated with clear-cutting and it may be susceptible to both the heating and drying effects of global climate change. While populations currently appear to be fairly numerous and widespread, this species along with the other cryophilic biota of the mountains should be monitored for downward changes.