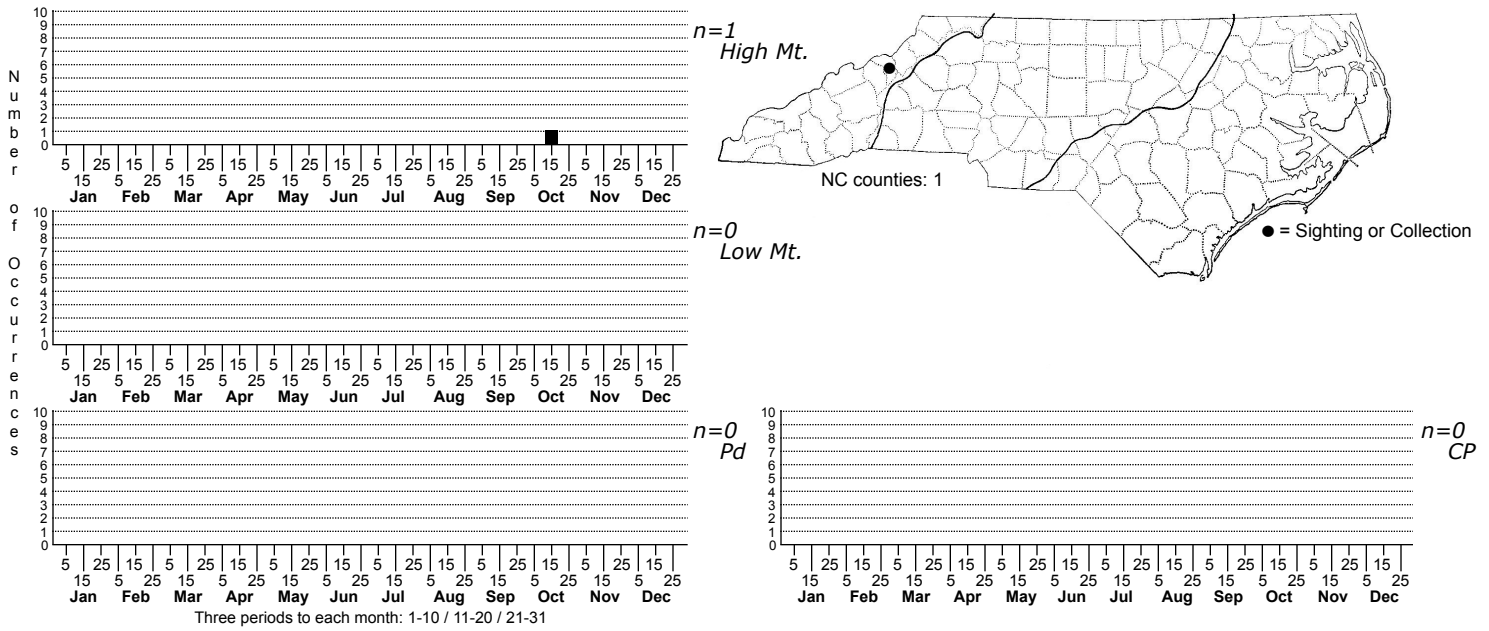


Calohypsibius ornatus



FAMILY: Calohypsibiidae

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: This species is extremely variable morphologically (see Bartos 1940). Some DNA data is available for *C. ornatus* but not for N.Am. populations.

SPECIES COMMENTS: Terrestrial. Often reported from high elevation sights throughout Europe and beyond. Appears cosmopolitan but might be cryptic species cluster. Arguably the most beautiful of all eutardigrades.

ID COMMENTS: Eye spots absent: in the position which they occupy, there are instead two papillae. On the dorsum and on a good portion of the lateral surface are 8 transverse rows of cuticular spines or thorns (from 8 to 12 per row); the first transverse row is situated with the fourth pair and has particularly long spines. The cephalic region bears rounded papillae, similar to small knobs, and these papillae are also found dorsally and laterally, between the rows of spines. Buccal tube very narrow, pharynx oval with apophyses and 2 macroplacoids (rounded granules); lacking microplacoid; doubleclaws of each leg of about equal size and *Calohypsibius* type appearance.

Ramazzotti & Maucci 1983

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

HABITAT: Lichen and mosses on trees. Often at high elevation.

OBSERVATION METHODS: PC, DIC and SEM microscopy.