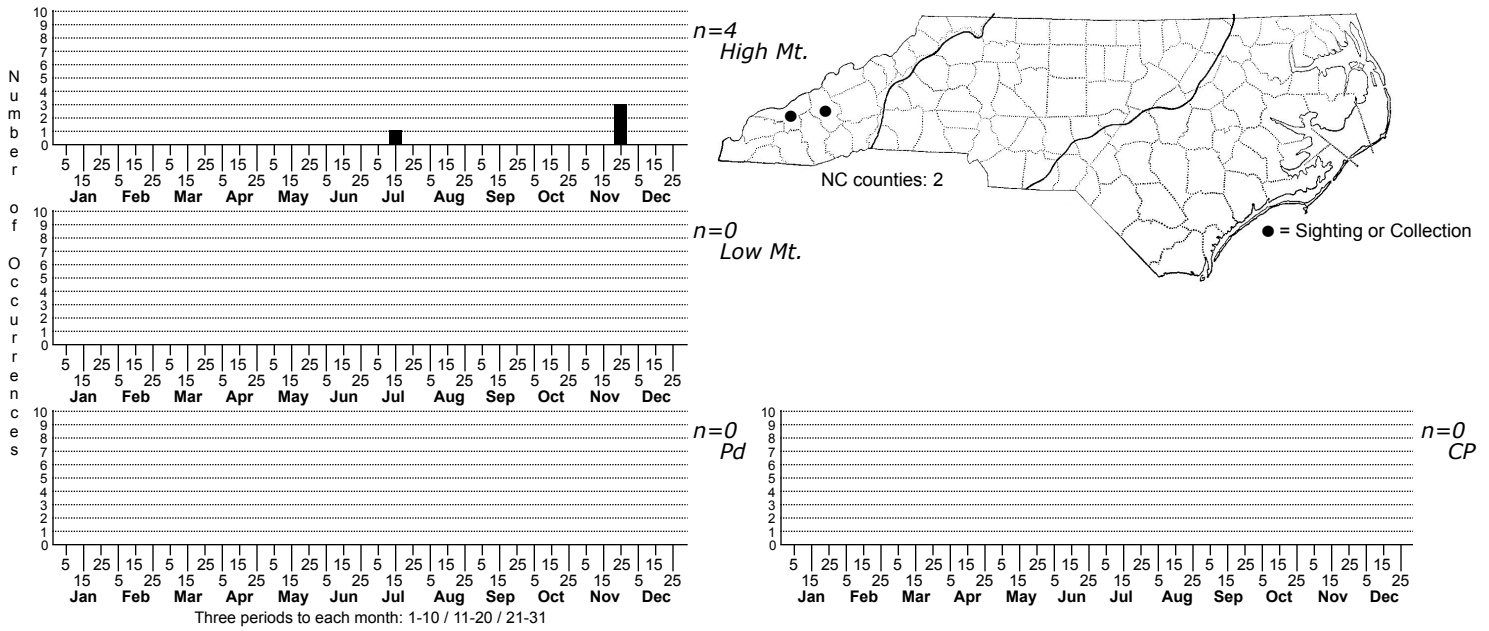


## *Adropion belgicae*



FAMILY: Itaquasconidae SUBFAMILY: Itaquasconinae

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: Morphologically identical to species originally described from Svalbard, Norway. No molecular data available for further comparison. New family designation based on Tumanov & Tsvetkova (2023).

SPECIES COMMENTS: Terrestrial. Broadly distributed in N.Am. and Europe.

ID COMMENTS: Up to almost 500 microns, cuticle smooth, eye spots absent. The buccal and pharyngeal tubes are very narrow (diameter about 2.5 microns) and very long. Between the buccal tube and the pharyngeal tube there is no "drop" formation. The pharynx is oval-cylindrical, of greater length than twice the width, with two very slender and long macroplocoids (thickness about 1 micron), of which the first is about half the second. The legs present massive claws, remarkably different in size. Near the claws exists a cuticular bar, on the first three pair of legs.

-Ramazzotti & Maucci 1983

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

HABITAT: Soil and leaf litter.

OBSERVATION METHODS: Phase contrast and differential interference contrast microscopy.