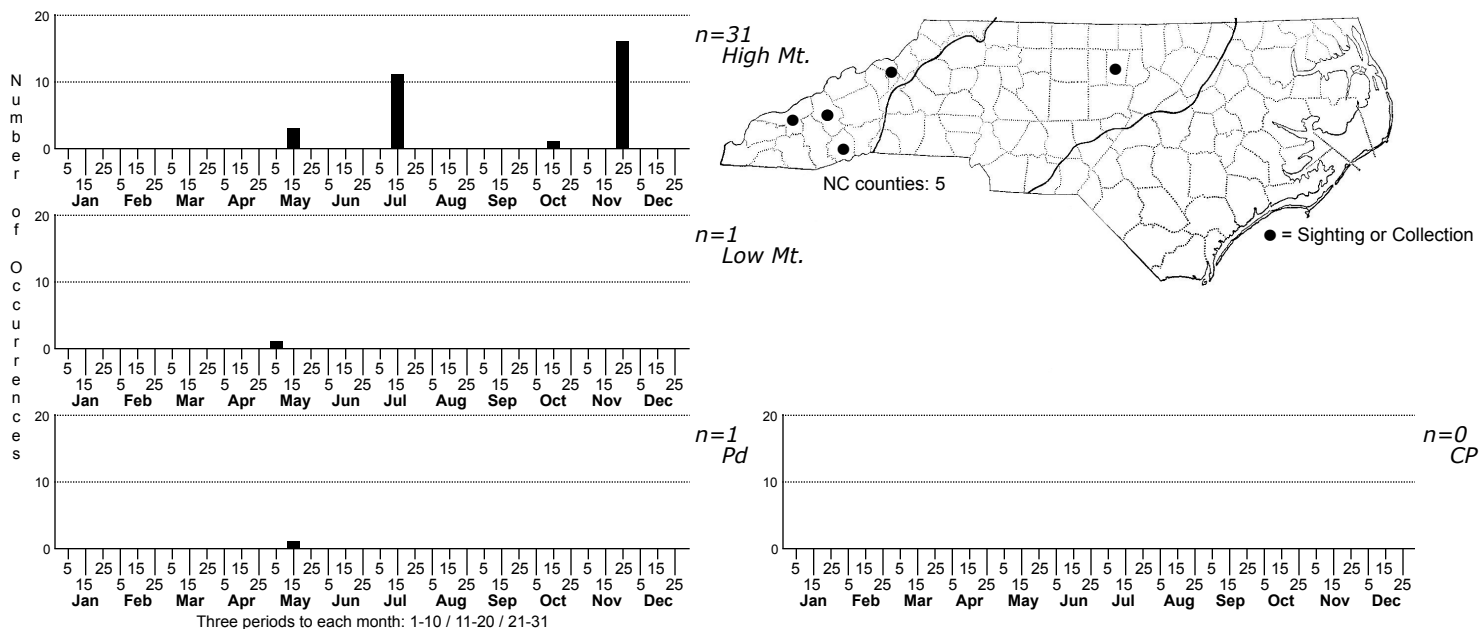


## *Adropion scoticum scoticum*



FAMILY: Itaquasconidae SUBFAMILY: Itaquasconinae

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: Morphologically indistinguishable from species first described in Lapland, Sweden. No molecular evidence available for further comparisons. Two additional subspecies have been described one also in Sweden, another in China. New family designation based on Tumanov & Tsvetkova (2023).

SPECIES COMMENTS: Terrestrial. Broadly distributed in USA, possibly cosmopolitan.

ID COMMENTS: Length up to 462  $\mu\text{m}$ , however in general 215-370  $\mu\text{m}$ . Body very slender, not narrowing anteriorly, eye spots absent, colorless (however in Scandinavian examples Maucci has sometimes observed a brownish color), cuticle smooth. The buccal tube is narrow, but less than in other species (internal diameter up to 2.7  $\mu\text{m}$ , equal to about 2.6% of the total length of the tube); there is no "drop" formation; the pharyngeal tube is about as long as the pharynx. This latter is very elongated (about two times longer than wide), sometimes rather pear-shaped. There are small apophyses, and three macroplacoids in the shape of slender elongated rods of increasing length or else the first and the second equal and the third longer, less frequently all three of equal length. Present are microplacoids and septula (Cuenot has described individuals with microplacoid, but lacking septula). On the first three of legs exists cuticular bars. The two doubleclaws of each leg are very different from each other in size, but not in shape: the common basal part expanded, stumpy with smooth margin, sometimes laterally prolonged in the shape of a spine, the principal branch is long slender, with accessory points.  
- Ramazzotti & Maucci 1983

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

HABITAT: Leaf litter, soil, and rarely in moss and lichen.

OBSERVATION METHODS: Phase contrast and differential interference contrast microscopy.