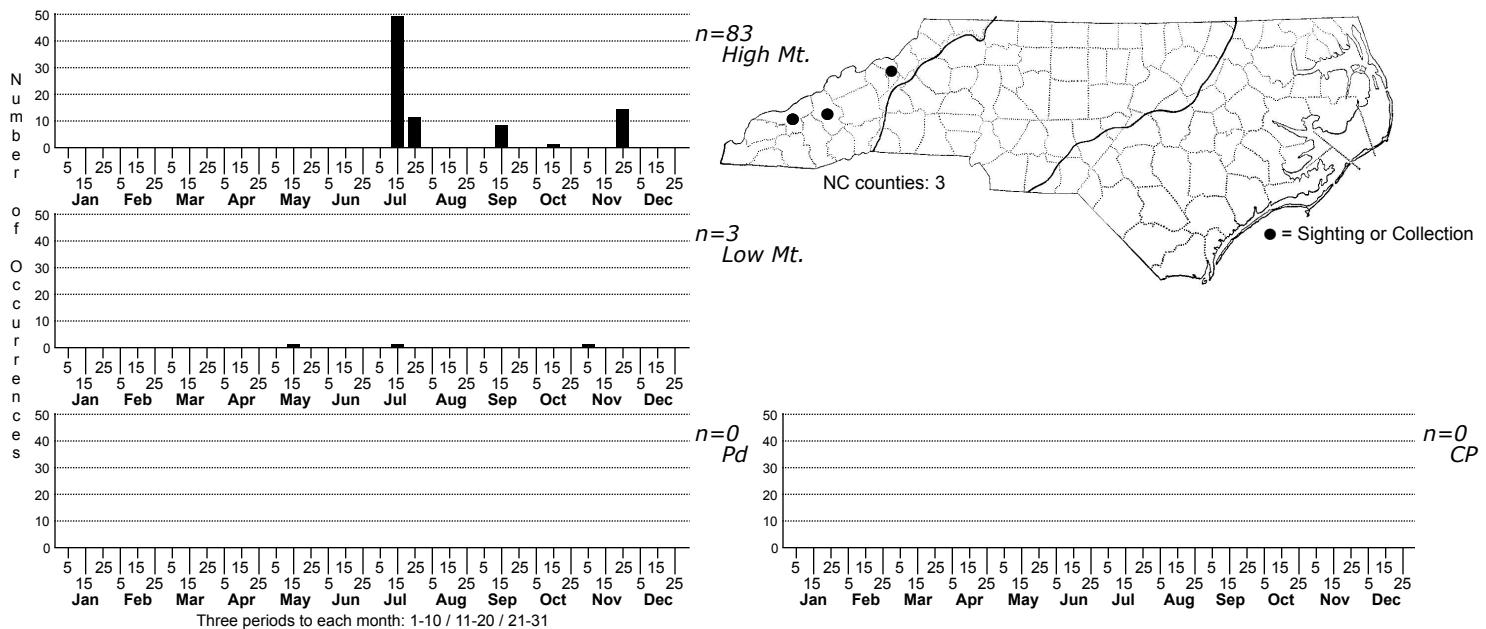


## *Astatumen trinacriae*



FAMILY: Itaquasconidae SUBFAMILY: Itaquasconinae

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: Morphologically indistinguishable from species originally described in Italy. No DNA analysis for further comparison. Family designation follows Tumanov & Tsvetkova (2023).

SPECIES COMMENTS: Terrestrial. Apparently cosmopolitan distribution. Broadly distributed in USA.

ID COMMENTS: Body very slender with the anterior part thinning. Cuticle smooth, eyes absent. The buccal tube is clearly differentiated into an anterior rigid part (which represents 12-14% of the entire tube) and a flexible part whose walls are provided with a spiral pattern clearly visible in the terminal end, but present along all the tube, even though difficult to observe. The tube is 35 to 50 microns long, with a width of 3 to 4.6. Lacking the stylet supports. The salivary glands have somewhat variable length: in general not reaching the caudal end of the pharynx, but at times abundantly surpasses it. The pharynx is very elongated, without apophyses or placoids, and has a cuticular thickening along the lumen. The claws are very different on each leg. The principal branch of the external claws is very long, enlarged near its insertion, then very slender and curved. The internal claws are much more massive, with principal branch more robust and shorter; either on the internal claws, or on the external, the principal branch is provided with accessory points. On the second or on the third pair of legs there is a cuticular bar about 7 microns long, which originates near the base of the internal claws. However Maucci has observed a population, referable as *As. trinacriae*, from Carso Triestino, in which two thirds of the individuals were devoid of such bar.

-Ramazzotti & Maucci 1983

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

HABITAT: Predominantly soil/leaf litter, but also frequently found in tree moss, and less commonly in lichen.

OBSERVATION METHODS: DIC and PC microscopy.