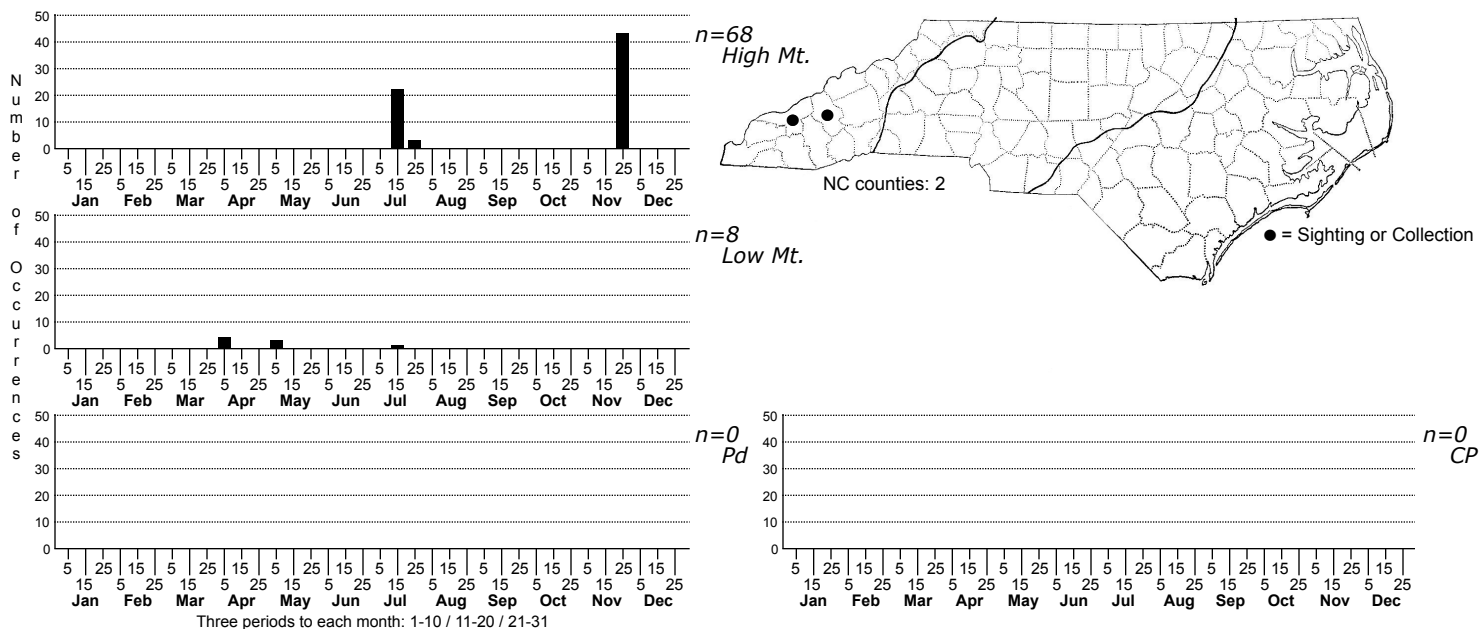


## *Diphascon higginsi*



FAMILY: Hypsibiidae SUBFAMILY: Diphasconinae

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: Morphologically identical to species originally described in N.Africa. No molecular evidence for further comparison. Family designation follows Tumanov & Tsvetkova (2023).

SPECIES COMMENTS: Terrestrial. Only recorded from WV, TN and NC in US.

ID COMMENTS: Maximum length 427  $\mu\text{m}$ . Without eyes; cuticle smooth. Rigid part of the buccal tube, which is prolonged a little further than the attachment of the stylet supports and without the small enlargement of "drop" shape. Pharyngeal tube almost as long as the pharynx or scarcely longer and very narrow (about 2  $\mu\text{m}$ ). Pharynx elongated oval, with length:width ratio of 1.6:1, containing apophyses, 3 macroplacoids, microplacoid, and septula. The 1st and 2nd macroplacoids are equally long and the 3rd (in an animal 427  $\mu\text{m}$  long, they measure from 1st to 3rd: 3.7, 5.8, 8.4  $\mu\text{m}$ ). Bases of the claws expanded, with basal margins enlarged and dentate on the 4th pair, while they are slightly notched or smooth on the first three pair. On the first three pair of legs exists a cuticular bar at the base of the claws. The principal difference of this species from *nobilei* consists of: septula present - pharyngeal tube as long as or a little more than the pharynx - lacking the "drop" and the eyes - less development of the claws. *D. higginsi*, which is probably an aquatic species was collected in damp moss at Oukalmeden (Mariakeeh at 2,500 m altitude, Atlante Peak, North Africa). - Ramazzotti & Maucci 1983

Length 268 - 377  $\mu\text{m}$ . The body is white, cuticle smooth. No eyes. Mouth and pharyngeal tube 54  $\mu\text{m}$  long, 1.5 - 1.8  $\mu\text{m}$  wide. Some specimens with tiny thickening (about 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$  in size) instead of drop-shaped structure; other ones without it, and the connection between these tubes is smooth. Pharynx elongated (31 x 19  $\mu\text{m}$ ) with distinct apophyses, three macroplacoids of increasing size, microplacoid and septulum (Fig. 125E, Pl. XXIXe, g). The length of macroplacoids: 1st - 3.5  $\mu\text{m}$ , 2nd - 4.0  $\mu\text{m}$ , 3rd - 6.5  $\mu\text{m}$ ; their width 1  $\mu\text{m}$  (measurements in a specimen 268  $\mu\text{m}$  long). At the inner claw bases on 1-3 pairs of legs there occur cuticular bars; no transversal bars are developed between bases of outer and inner claws. The claws are slender, with elongated main branches and accessory spines (Fig. 125F, G, Pl. XXIXf). On the posterior edge of broad bases of outer claws of IVth pair minute teeth were observed (Fig. 125G). These claws are 15  $\mu\text{m}$  long; their main branches are 10  $\mu\text{m}$  in length. Rare lowland species (Fig. 143), known in Poland from a few widely dispersed localities (Fig. 123). A Palearctic element. - Dastych 1988

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

HABITAT: Tree moss, but also found in soil, and rarely in all other habitat types.

OBSERVATION METHODS: PC, DIC microscopy.