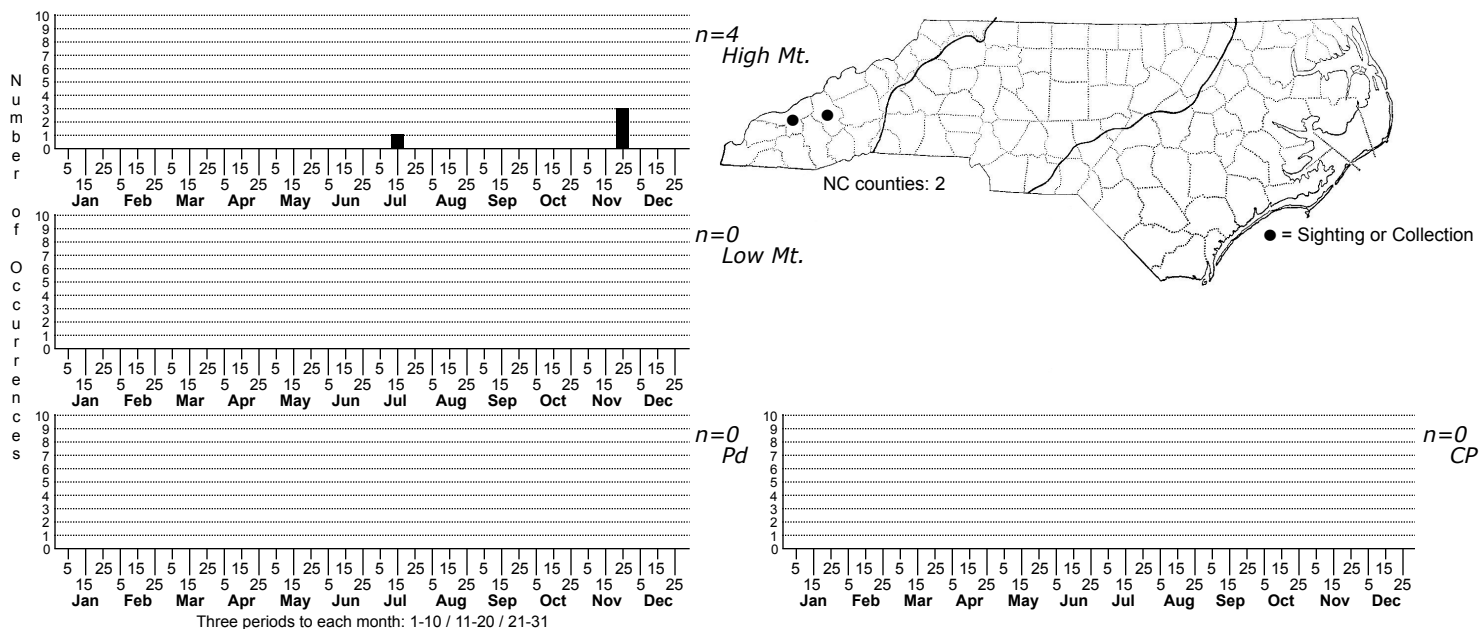


## *Diphascon nobilei*



FAMILY: Hypsibiidae SUBFAMILY: Diphasconinae

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: Morphologically indistinguishable from species first described from Italy. No molecular evidence for further comparisons. Family designation follows Tumanov & Tsvetkova (2023).

SPECIES COMMENTS: Terrestrial. In USA, only reported from Smokies.

ID COMMENTS: Length 188-390  $\mu\text{m}$ , colorless, cuticle smooth, eye spots present. The buccal tube presents the “drop” formation, while the flexible pharyngeal tube is a little shorter than the pharynx, slender, with diameter about 2  $\mu\text{m}$ . Pharynx elongated, with length:width ratio of 1.8:1, containing the apophyses and 3 macroplacoids (rods), of which the 2nd is shorted and the 3rd longest (caudally terminated in the swelling). Microplacoid present. Legs short, with doubleclaws of different shape and size: the external doubleclaw, robust, has the principal branch inserted about the middle of the basal claw; the internal doubleclaw, also robust, is smaller and the two branches form between them a greater angle than in the external doubleclaw. The basal part of the doubleclaw - especially on the 4th pair of legs - is robust, considerably expanded in the proximal part and presents robust teeth: they are, these, unusual characteristics in Diphascon, which renders the species then easily identifiable. the principal branches of all the doubleclaws bear obvious accessory points; also close to the base of the internal doubleclaws exists - on the first three pair of legs - a smooth cuticular bar, about 6  $\mu\text{m}$  long. *D. nobilei* was observed in moss form coastal dunes of Gela (Sicily) and of Pietra Cannone (region of Etna, Sicily).  
- Ramazzotti & Maucci 1983

Length 205  $\mu\text{m}$ . The body is white with light-brown pigment. Cuticle smooth. No eyes. Mouth and pharyngeal tube 57  $\mu\text{m}$  long, 2  $\mu\text{m}$  wide and with a prominent drop-shaped structure between them. Mouth tube length 22  $\mu\text{m}$ . Pharynx oval (30 x 17  $\mu\text{m}$ ) with distinct apophyses, three elongated macroplacoids and a microplacoid (Fig. 127E, PL. XXXa). The second macroplacoid is the shortest. The length of macroplacoids : 1st - 3.8  $\mu\text{m}$ , 2nd - 3  $\mu\text{m}$ , 3rd - 5.5  $\mu\text{m}$ ; their width 1  $\mu\text{m}$ . At the bases of inner claws of 1-3 pairs of legs there occur cuticular bars (Fig. 127F, PL. XXXb), but no bars are developed between the bases of inner and outer claws on these legs; however, very small bar was noticed (?) between the claws of the 4th pair. Claws with small accessory spines. The outer claw bases of 4th pair are very broad and provided with very tiny teeth (Fig. 127G); these teeth are developed also at the inner claw bases of the 4th pair. At the claw bases on the other legs such teeth were not observed. The length of outer claw of the 4th pair 9  $\mu\text{m}$ , its main branch is about 6.5  $\mu\text{m}$  long. No eggs were found. Species known in Poland only from one lowland locality and on specimen (Fig. 118). Apart from southern Europe it was recorded from Australia (Pilato & D’Urso, 1976).  
- Dastych 1988

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

HABITAT: Soil, also moss.

OBSERVATION METHODS: PC, DIC microscopy.