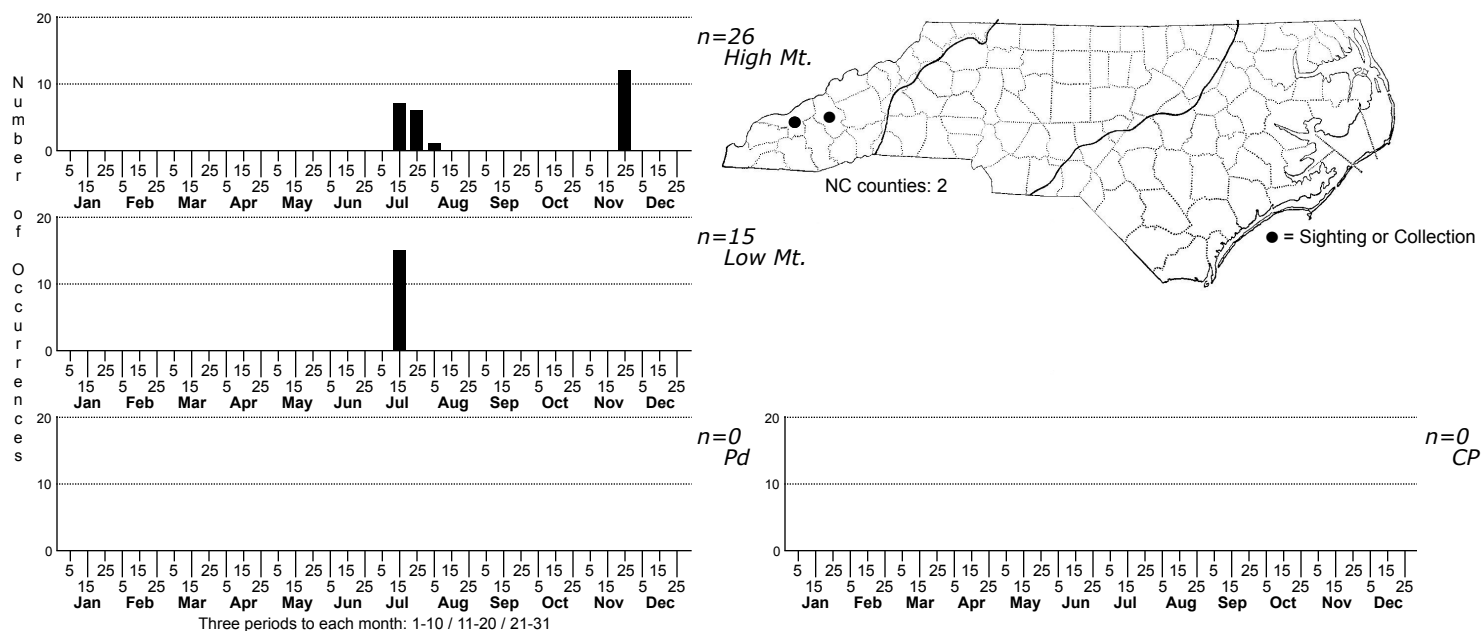


Diphascon pinguiforme



FAMILY: Hypsibiidae SUBFAMILY: Diphasconinae

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: Morphologically matches species originally described from Italy, no molecular evidence for further comparisons. Family designation follows Tumanov & Tsvetkova (2023).

SPECIES COMMENTS: Terrestrial. No other US records.

ID COMMENTS: Body length up to 190 μm ; eyes absent, cuticle smooth. In the holotype, 190 μm long, the bucco-pharyngeal tube is 51.65 μm long; the buccal tube, measured as specified above, is 19.13 μm long (37.04% of the total length of the bucco-pharyngeal tube) and 1.20 μm wide (ptd = 6.27). The stylet supports are inserted on the buccal tube at 58.25% of its length. The pharyngeal bulb (23.77 μm long and 13.28 μm wide) has apophyses, three rod-shaped macroplacoids, a small, granular microplacoid, and a septulum. The second macroplacoid is as long as the first one or slightly shorter; the third macroplacoid is clearly longer than the first two. In the holotype the first macroplacoid is 3.63 μm long (ptd = 18.97), the second 3.63 μm (ptd = 18.97), the third 4.57 μm (ptd = 23.89); the septulum, clearly shorter than the first macroplacoid, is 2.25 μm long (ptd = 11.76). The entire line of macroplacoids and septulum is 14.52 μm long (ptd = 75.90), the line of macroplacoids 11.69 μm (ptd = 61.11). The claws are slender. The position of the examined specimens is not good to measure all the claws; we were able to measure the outer claws on the third pair of legs in the holotype (8.28 μm ; ptd = 43.28); in one of the paratypes, 150 μm long and having the buccal tube 18.44 μm long, we were able to measure the inner claws of the first pair of legs (4.83 μm ; ptd = 26.19) and the outer claws of the second pair of legs (7.08 μm ; ptd = 38.39). On all claws the main branches have accessory points. Lunulae and other cuticular thickenings on the legs are absent. - Pilato & Binda 1997/1998.

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

HABITAT: Soil / leaf litter. Also found in tree lichen and tree moss.

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OBSERVATION METHODS: PC and DIC.