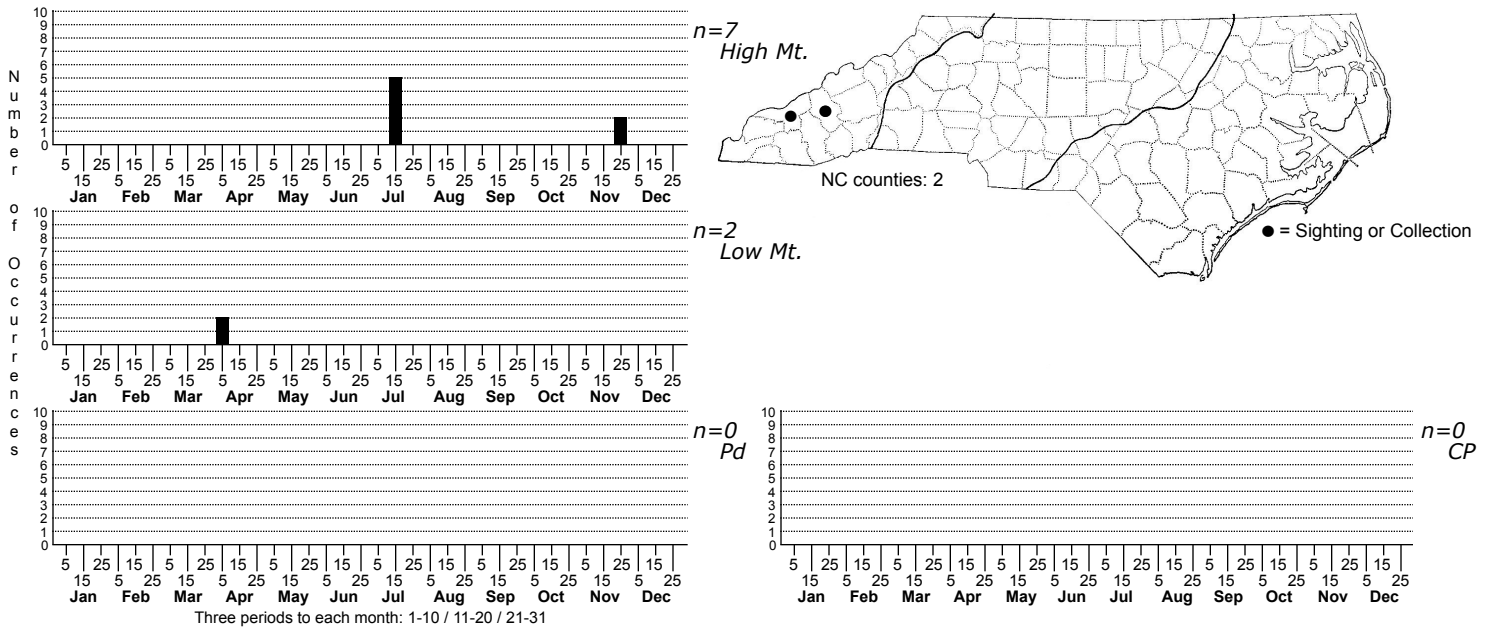


Guidettion carolae



FAMILY: Itaquasconidae SUBFAMILY: Itaquasconinae

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: Transferred from Adropion by Gasiorek & Michalczyk 2020. Morphologically indistinguishable from European populations, but no molecular data for further comparison. Family designation follows Tumanov & Tsvetkova (2023).

SPECIES COMMENTS: Terrestrial. Rarely reported species known only from Smokies in US.

ID COMMENTS: The two specimens collected measured 161 μm , the eyes are absent and the anterior portion of the body is clearly narrowed; cuticle smooth. Buccal tube with insertion appendices of the stylet muscles in the shape of crests; pharyngeal tube (flexible) very narrow (diameter about 1 μm), about 1.5 times as long as the pharynx and with the usual twisting spiral of its wall. There is no “drop” formation on the buccal tube. Pharynx of very elongated shape, with length:width ratio to 2.1-2.2:1 (about 21-22 μm x 10 μm). Very small apophyses and 3 macroplocoids (rods), the first two of almost equal length (respectively 2.3 to 2.5 μm), the third clearly longer (about 6 μm); microplocoid and septula absent. The length of the row of 3 placoids is about 14 μm and therefore greater than half the length of the pharynx. Doubleclaws of Hypsibius type and the two of each leg are somewhat different from each other in shape and size; small accessory points, either on the principal branch of the external doubleclaw (7.8 μm long), or of the internal doubleclaws (6 μm long). Since the principal branch is inserted on the basal claw at about a third of its length, the basal portion of the claws appears not particularly short. *D. carolae* is distinguished from *D. tenue* (the species which it closest resembles) by having the rostral part of the body slender by the presence of small apophyses (lacking in *tenue*), by the considerable length of the row of placoids (larger than half the length of the pharynx, while in *tenue* is less), by having the basal portion of the claws not particularly short, while in *tenue* it is short, by the posterior legs of normal length and not short like *tenue*.

-Ramazzotti & Maucci 1983

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

HABITAT: Rock moss, also soil/leaf litter and tree moss.

OBSERVATION METHODS: PC and DIC.