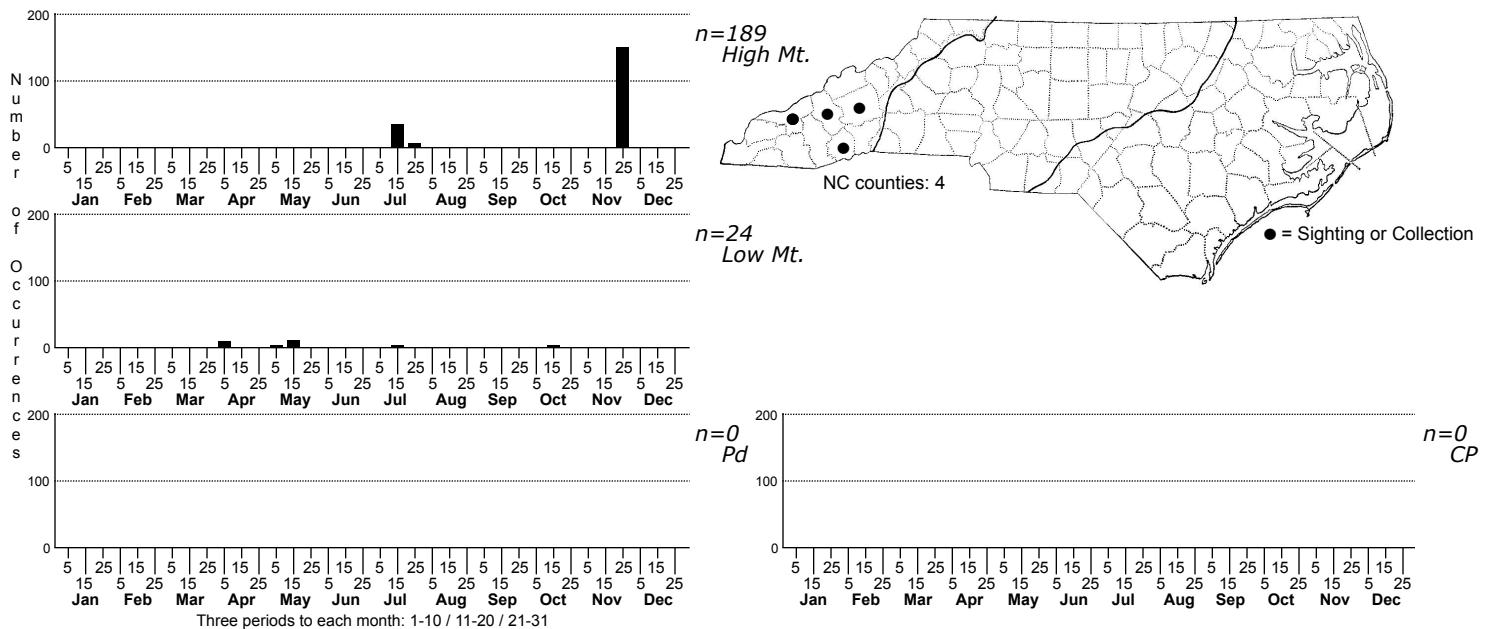


Hypsibius convergens



FAMILY: Hypsibiidae SUBFAMILY: Hypsibiinae

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: Probably a species complex in need of integrative taxonomic examination.

SPECIES COMMENTS: Mostly terrestrial. Apparently cosmopolitan, broadly reported from USA.

ID COMMENTS: Length up to 400 μm ; eyes present, sometimes small, sometimes of great size. Buccal tube rather narrow, from 1.5 to 1.7 μm in diameter, with appendices of insertion for the muscles in the form of a hook. The pharynx is - in optical section - a rather elongated oval (reported length to width ratio of about 1.3:1) and contains apophyses and 2 macroplacoids which are wide rods and the length of the first with respect to the second is reported 3:2; sometimes the first rod appears constricted in the middle and the second assumes the form of an oval granule. In general lacking the microplacoid; when present, it is nevertheless very small. Doubleclaws of each leg of very different size. The basal branch is inserted very low on the secondary branch, near the base, so that the common branch of the claw is very short. Deposited in the exuvium are 1 to 7 eggs, smooth oval or spherical. *H. convergens* is near to *H. microps* and *H. pallidus*: it can be distinguished from these two species by the elongated pharynx, by the shape of the placoids (which in the other two species are short granules), and by the more massive and divergent claws. It is however advisable to make clear that these characters do not always appear very evident, and in many cases certain determination requires considerable experience. *H. convergens* is also very similar to *H. dujardini*: this last species has however placoids a little more slender and longer, has a more evident microplacoid, and has decidedly more developed claws. Also in this case, especially for material collected in water, in the interstitial environment, or in wet moss a certain determination may be very difficult. *H. convergens* has been collected almost everywhere, in Europe (including Italy), North and South America, on Fernando Poo Island (western Africa), on Kerguelen Island, in India, Turkey, at 5,500 m altitude on Himalaya (pigmentation of brown color), in the Arctic: but it is necessary to keep in mind the possibility of possible error in the determination of the species.

Type loc.: Wilna (Poland).

- Ramazzotti & Maucci 1983

Length 160-310 μm . The body is white, eyes are present. Cuticle smooth. Mouth tube 28 μm long, 2.5 μm wide, with distinct apophyses (dimensions in a specimen 275 μm long). Pharynx oval (25 x 20 μm) with two macroplacoids. No microplacoid. First macroplacoid slightly constricted in its middle. Macroplacoid lengths: 1st - 4.5 μm , 2nd - 2.8 μm ; their width 1.5 μm . Claw main branches with small accessory spines. At the claw bases of 4th pair there occur small cuticular thickenings. Outer claws of 4th pair of legs 18 μm long; the length of its main branch 12 μm , the base height amounts to 7 μm . Exuviae with 1-4 smooth eggs. The studied specimens showed a great variability in the shape and size of placoids and claws. Furthermore in several of them, behind the macroplacoids I have found very fine cuticular granules (microplacoids ?!). However, they were distinctly smaller than the microplacoids in *H. dujardini*. In my opinion *H. convergens* is a complex species requiring a revision. Unfortunately, the type-material of this species does not exist. Tychoalpine species, rather frequent and numerous, widely distributed in Poland. Euryhygic and mesocalciphilous forms more frequent on carbonate bedrock. It was collected in almost all studied habitats. A geopolitan species.

- Dastych 1988

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

HABITAT: Soil / leaf litter, tree moss, tree lichens, rock moss, also occurs in streams.

OBSERVATION METHODS: DIC, PC.