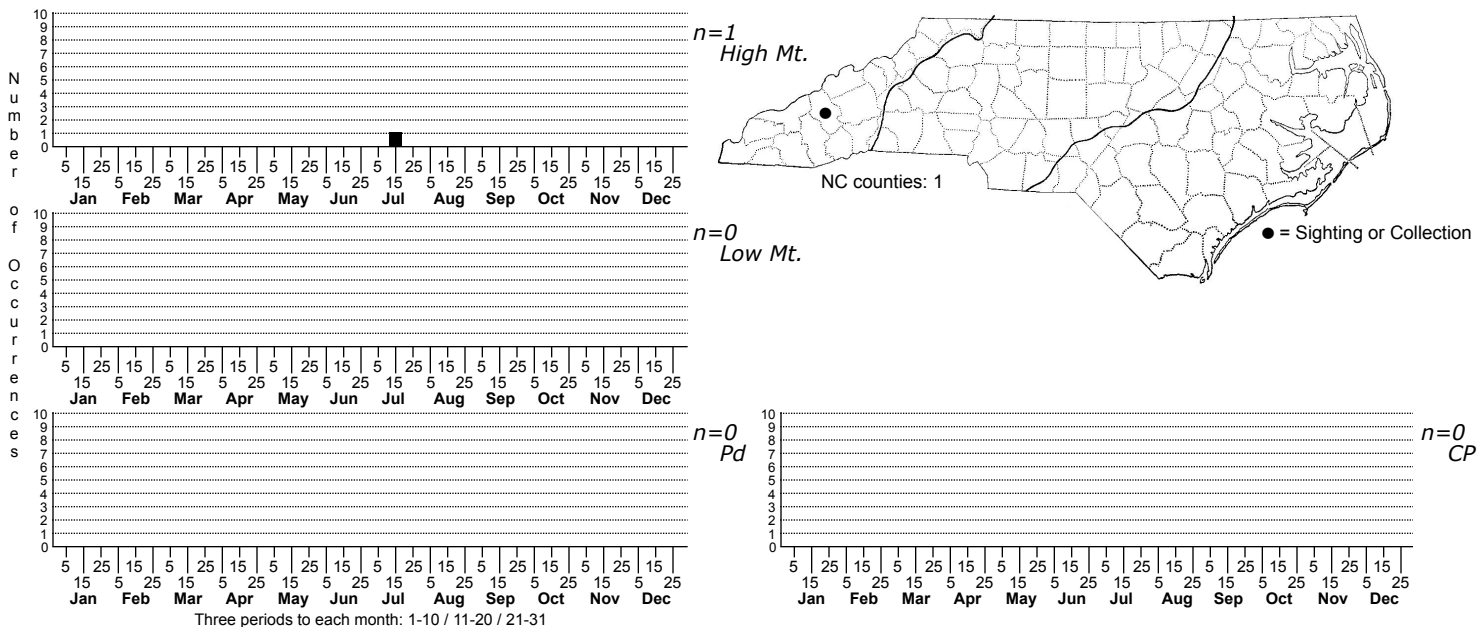


# *Pilatobius granifer*



FAMILY: Pilatobiidae SUBFAMILY: Pilatobiinae

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: Transferred from Diphascion by Bertolani et al. 2014. Morphologically indistinguishable from species first described in Germany. No DNA evidence available for further comparison. Family designation follows Tumanov & Tsvetkova (2023).

SPECIES COMMENTS: Terrestrial. Only known from GSMNP in US.

ID COMMENTS: Pharyngeal tube long and slender (little longer than the pharynx); between the buccal tube and the pharyngeal tube exists the “drop” formation. Apophyses very obvious, 2 macroplacoids in the shape of wide rods (the 1st with clear constriction) and septula. The cuticle is uniformly granulated on the dorsum, from the cephalic end as far as the caudal; the granulation brings to mind that of *H. oberhaezaeri*. It deposits 4 smooth eggs (diameter about 45  $\mu\text{m}$ ) in the old cuticle. This species seems to be rather close to *D. ramazzotti* and *D. nodulosum*. However a comparison performed on typical examples resulted that *D. ramazzottii* has a much finer sculpture, the more slender buccal tube is longer, and it possesses on the first three pair of legs a cuticular bar which is lacking in *D. granifer*, also the eyes are present, while they are instead absent in *granifer*. *D. nodulosum* has however eyes present, buccal tube more slender and narrow, macroplacoids shorter, almost granular; also the sculpture is composed of larger plates, increasing in the direction of the caudal end.

- Ramazzotti & Maucci 1983

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

HABITAT: Freshwater streams.

OBSERVATION METHODS: PC and DIC.