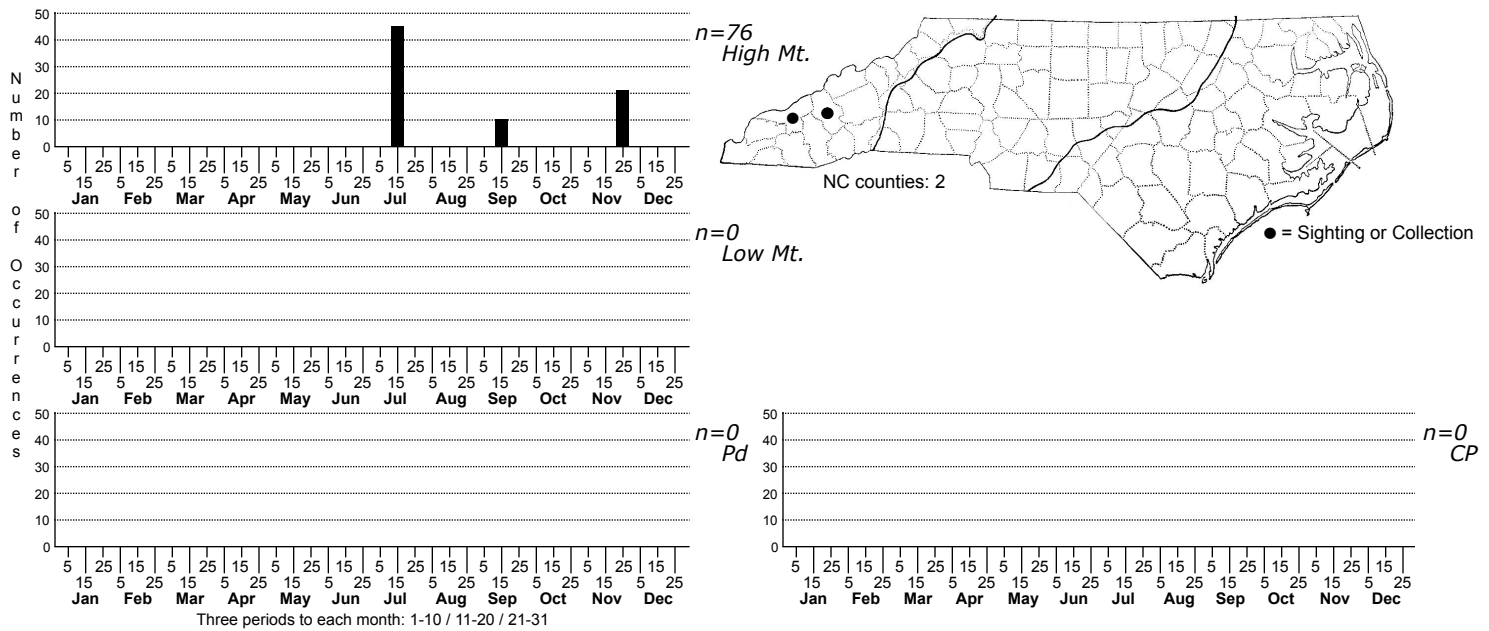


Pilatobius nodulosus



FAMILY: Pilatobiidae SUBFAMILY: Pilatobiinae

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

SPECIES COMMENTS: Terrestrial. Reported infrequently but widely in US.

ID COMMENTS: Colorless, eye spots present. The sculpture of the cuticle is composed of tubercles of irregular rounded shape, very large in the dorsal caudal region, where often flattened distally (perhaps because of the coverslip?), assuming sometimes the appearance of small irregular polygonal plates, with diameter up to about 5-6 μm ; these tubercles project considerably at the lateral margins, especially at the caudal end; the size of them becomes smaller going toward the rostral end of the tardigrade: from the middle of the animal forward the sculpture is reduced to simple granulation, always less distinct, as far as reaching the cephalic region, which seems to be completely smooth, even observed with strong magnification. Pharynx tube very narrow (diameter less than 2 μm), long than the length of the pharynx. Between the buccal tube and the pharyngeal tube exists the “drop” formation. The pharynx is short oval (29 x 24 μm in an animal about 230 μm) with very visible apophyses, 2 macroplacoids (granules), of which the first is a little longer and larger than the second, and septula (or microplacoid?). The legs of the 4th pair are also covered with small tubercles, which become smaller on the 2nd and 3rd pairs, while those on the 1st pair seem to be smooth, or almost; doubleclaws of very different size from each other, especially on the 4th pair of legs, where the principal branch of the external doubleclaw, very slender (as in *H. oberhaeuseri*), reaches a total length - from base to apex - of about 17 μm . The species may be near to *D. rugocaudatum*, which presents however only granulation in a restricted caudal zone. For the difference from *D. granifer* and *D. ramazzottii* we refer the reader to the observation with regard to *D. granifer*. *D. nodulosum* was collected in Wisconsin (in moss on conifer trunks) as well as California, Virginia (U.S. A), and in Canada. - Ramazzotti & Maucci 1983

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

HABITAT: Tree lichen and tree moss. Rarely in soil.

OBSERVATION METHODS: DIC and PC.