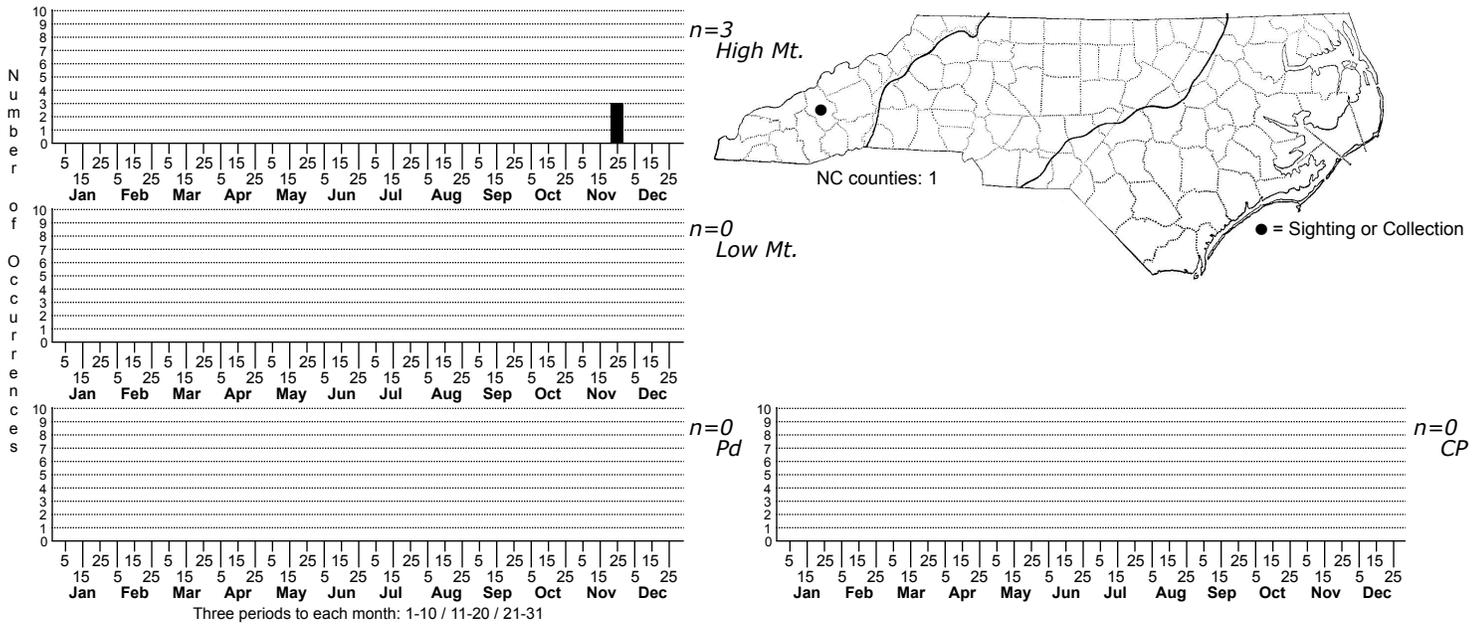


*Platicrista horribilis*



FAMILY: Itaquasconidae SUBFAMILY: Itaquasconinae

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: Morphologically indistinguishable from species originally described in Mongolia. Records for this species exist in GenBank, but there is no molecular data for the NC population for further comparison. Family designation follows Tumanov & Tsvetkova (2023).

SPECIES COMMENTS: Terrestrial. Only reported from GSMNP in USA.

ID COMMENTS: Holotype: Total body length 720  $\mu$ m. Body white or transparent. Cuticle smooth. Eyes absent. Buccopharyngeal tube 76  $\mu$ m long and 3  $\mu$ m wide. Apophyses for insertion of stylet muscles very wide, with a flat ridge. Drop-like thickening between buccal and pharyngeal tube absent. Buccal tube 39  $\mu$ m long. Pharyngeal tube with spiral thickening 37  $\mu$ m long, ending (on dorsal or ventral view) with semilunar structures (4  $\mu$ m long). In pharynx, between end of pharyngeal tube and the first macroplacoid two very slender cuticular bars directed forward (5  $\mu$ m long). Stylet supports inserted 1  $\mu$ m above upper limit of pharyngeal tube. Pharyngeal bulb pear-shaped, 77  $\mu$ m long and 37  $\mu$ m wide, containing two slender, lancet-shaped macroplacoids with irregularly undulated edges. First macroplacoid 14  $\mu$ m, second 33  $\mu$ m long; both 1  $\mu$ m wide. Macroplacoid row 48  $\mu$ m long. Septulae and microplacoid absent. Claws of Hypsibius-type; on I pair of legs: external (primary branch: 30  $\mu$ m, secondary: 13  $\mu$ m), internal (pb.: 17  $\mu$ m, sb.: 10  $\mu$ m); II: ext. (pb.: 33  $\mu$ m, sb.: 15  $\mu$ m), int. (pb.: 20  $\mu$ m, sb.: 12  $\mu$ m); III: ext. (pb.: 34  $\mu$ m, sb.: 14  $\mu$ m), int. (pb.: 22  $\mu$ m, sb.: 12  $\mu$ m); VI: ext. (pb.: 34  $\mu$ m, sb.: 16  $\mu$ m), int. (pb.: 23  $\mu$ m, sb.: 14  $\mu$ m). Primary branches of internal and external claws with two accessory points. On IV pair of legs lunules with fine teeth. Cuticular bars on legs absent. Eggs unknown.  
-Kaczmarek & Michalczyk 2003

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

HABITAT: Tree moss and lichen.

OBSERVATION METHODS: PC and DIC.