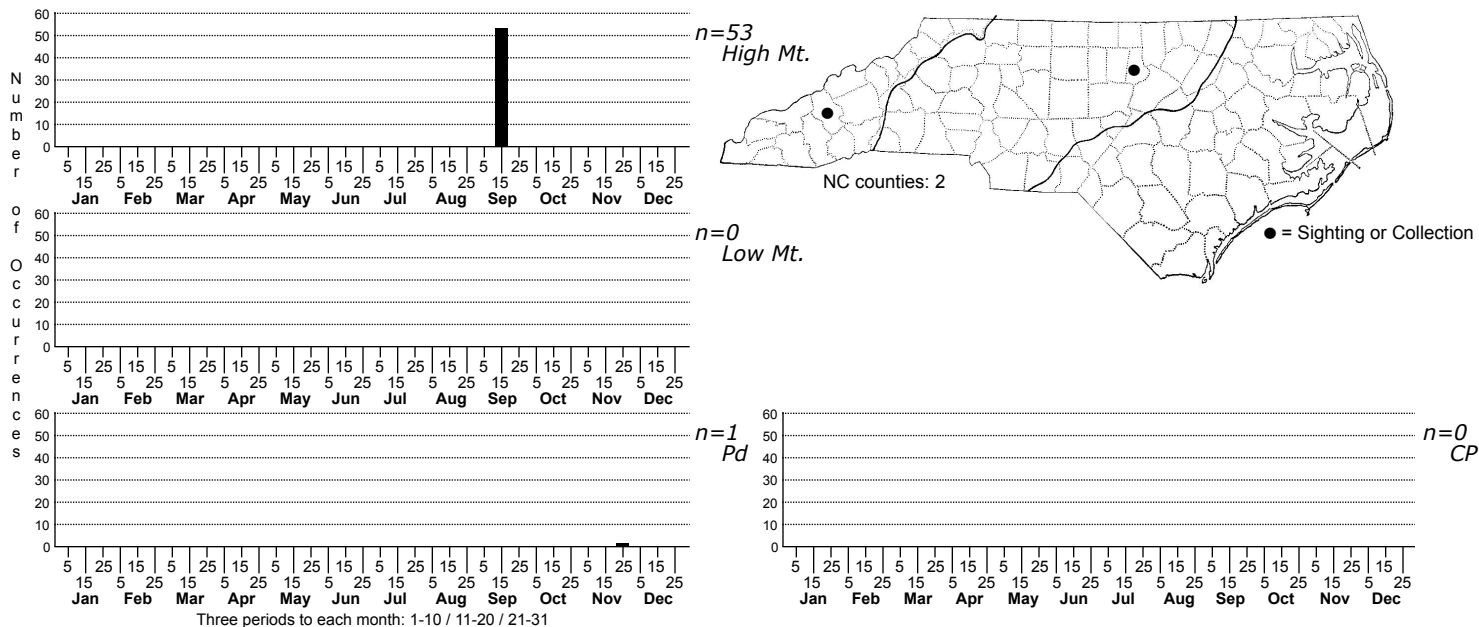


Ramazzottius baumanni



FAMILY: Ramazzottiidae

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: This species is morphologically indistinguishable from the species first described from Chile. No DNA data is available for further comparison.

SPECIES COMMENTS: Terrestrial. Reported from various states throughout US.

ID COMMENTS: Eye spots absent. The sculpture, which covers the entire dorsal and lateral surfaces -- legs included -- is composed of a large granulation, in which the elements assume the appearance of platelets more or less circular or polygonal, especially in the median zone of the dorsum. The individual platelets, which are really tubercles flattened at their apices, may reach 8-9 μm in diameter and they resemble, especially those of larger size, what is present on the caudal region of *Diphascon nodulosum* Ramazzotti. In the rostral and caudal regions of the tardigrade and on the legs, especially on the anterior, the platelets diminish in diameter, reduced sometimes (but not always) to a strong granulation of tubercles. The cuticle on the ventral surface, including that of the legs, is smooth. The animal, observed dorsally, shows 9 transverse bands of reddish brown color, very protruding (with exception of the rostral two); on several of these bands, in particular from the fourth to the eighth, the platelets tend to cluster to form a gibbosity, not always clearly defined in number and position, and variable from one individual to another. Sometimes there is a tuberculated gibbosity also on the 4th pair of legs. The buccal tube is very narrow (external diameter 1.5-2 μm) with very evident apophyses; the pharynx, circular or slightly oval, measures for example 28 x 28 μm in an individual 315 μm long, 24 x 24 in a 288 μm individual, and 24 x 21 μm in an individual of 246 μm ; it contains two square macroplacoids, of which the first is somewhat larger than the second; there is no microplacoid. The rows of the macroplacoids are short and do not surpass more than the middle of the pharynx. The doubleclaws resemble those of *H. oberhaeuseri* [now *R. oberhaeuseri*]: the principal branch of the external doubleclaw is slender and long (17 μm on the 4th pair of legs of a tardigrade of 246 μm) with very small accessory points, visible with difficulty and set back with respect to the end of the claw; the internal doubleclaw is very robust and has distinct accessory points on its principal branch. *R. baumanni*, especially at low magnification, resembles *R. oberhaeuseri*, but is different in the sculpture characteristics, in the prominent bands, by the more or less distinct gibbosity, and by the lack of colorless longitudinal bands. Deposited eggs have not been observed and therefore it has not been established if they are free, or else contained in the exuvia; three eggs, visible in the ovary of a female, exhibited small projecting ornamentation, whose shape was not however very distinguishable. The species was collected in moss and lichen on the trunk of *Aextoxicum punctatum* in two different localities at Fray Jorge (Chile, altitude of about 620 m).
-Ramazzotti & Maucci 1983

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

HABITAT: Tree lichen. Also soil and tree moss.

OBSERVATION METHODS: DIC and PC.