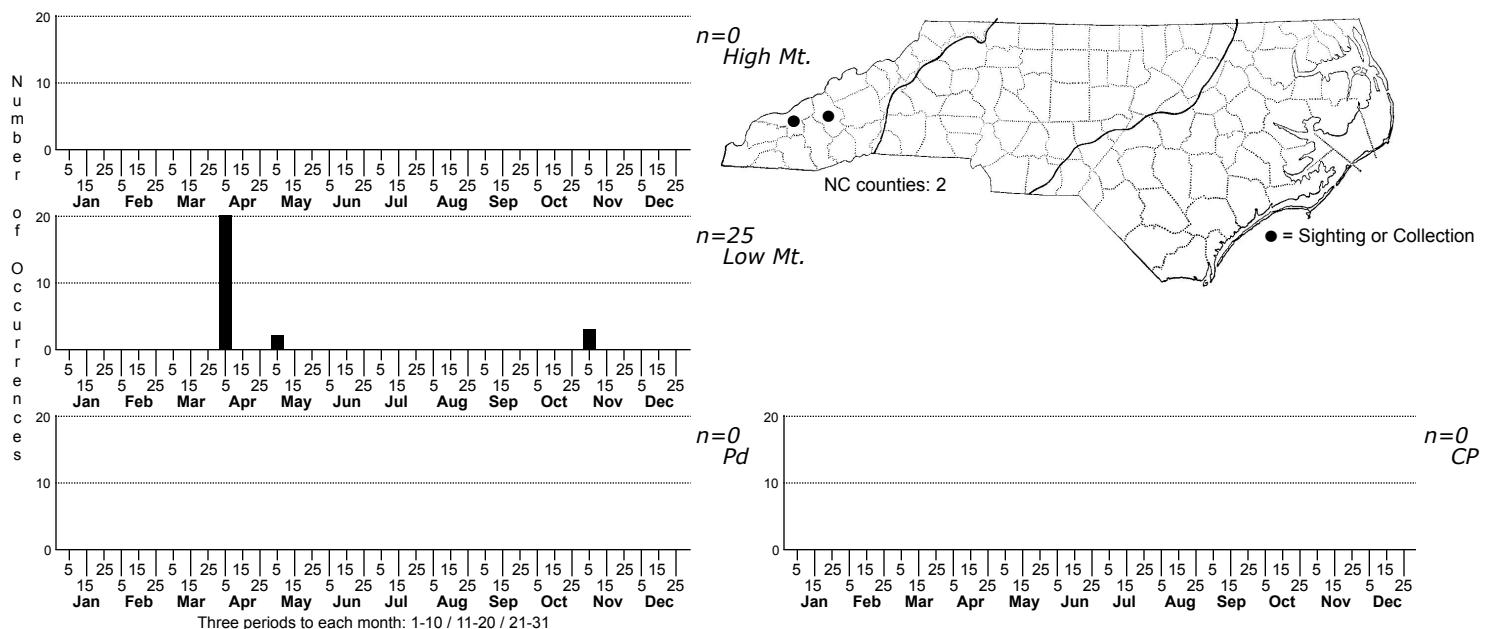


## *Isohypsibius cf. reticulatus*



FAMILY: Isohypsibiidae

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: This species is very similar to *I. reticulatus*. Further work is needed to determine if it is *reticulatus* or a new species.

SPECIES COMMENTS: Freshwater. *I. reticulatus* was originally reported in Sicily.

ID COMMENTS: For *Isohypsibius reticulatus*:

Colorless, with eye spots. The cuticle has an elegant reticular sculpture with mesh of different shape and size in the different regions of the body. In the anterior portion at the first pair of legs the mesh are very small (diameter less than 1~) and have polygonal shape with straight sides; continuing toward the posterior the mesh becomes larger (up to 3.8~ in diameter at the caudal) and the sides of the polygons become bent. Buccal tube short and rather wide. Appendages of muscle insertion of the stylets in the shape of crests. Pharynx slightly oval, with apophyses well developed and two rod-shaped macroplacoids, of which the first, longer than the second, has a central constriction. Microplacoid absent. The doubleclaws of the first pair of legs are more developed than the second and the third. The basal portion of all the claws is rather short and strongly reduced near its end; the principal branch of all the claws is provided with small accessory points, difficult to see. At the base of the claws there is a cuticular thickening explainable as a lunule. On the first three pair of legs there is a cuticular thickening in the shape of an undulating bar.

-Ramazzotti & Maucci 1983

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

HABITAT: Streams, predominantly in periphyton.

OBSERVATION METHODS: PC and DIC.