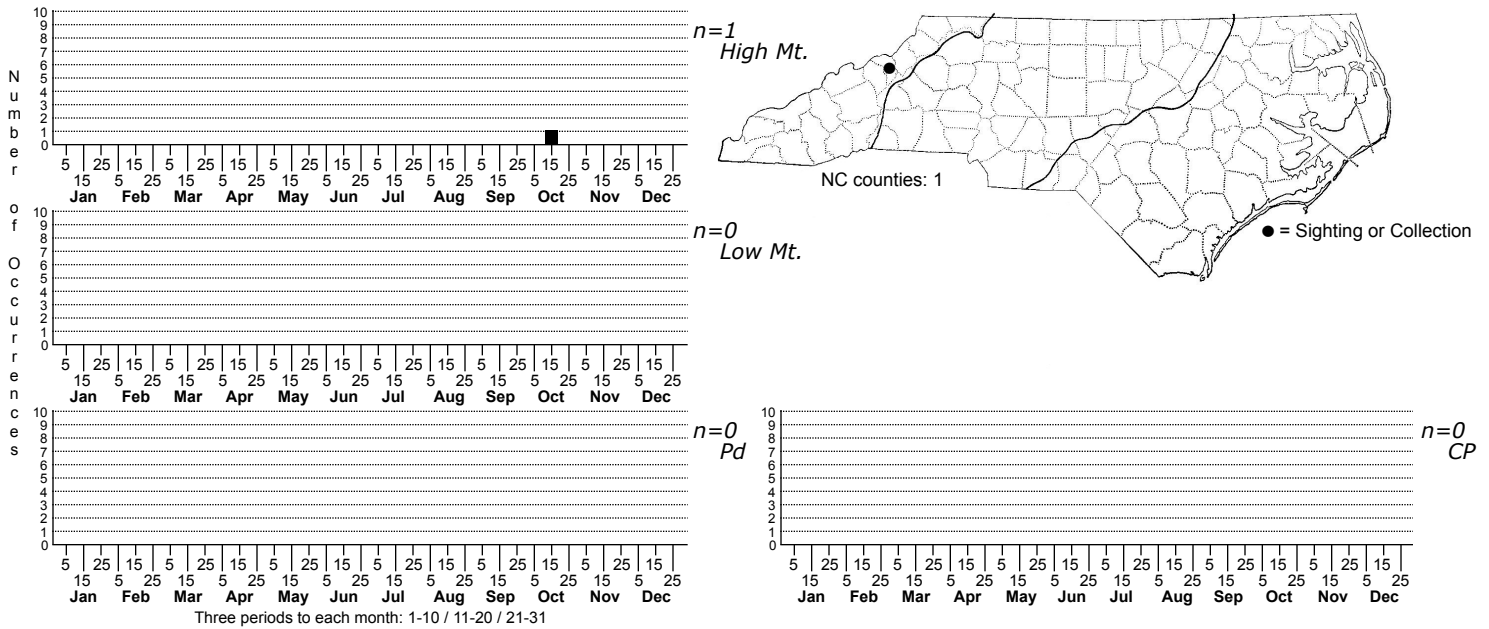


## *Macrobiotus hibiscus*



FAMILY: Macrobiotidae

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: Nomen inquirendum according to Stec et al. 2021 due to insufficient detail in description for positive identification. Very similar to others in *M. hufelandi* group.

SPECIES COMMENTS: Terrestrial. Recorded in US from Florida to Ohio to Oklahoma.

ID COMMENTS: Colorless, eyespots present. Mouth opening consisting of 3 rings (the author does not cite peribuccal lamellae); buccal tube rather short (30 microns) and thin (2.5 microns); pharynx almost round, with 2 macroplacoids, of variable length and shape, of which the 1st is longer than the 2nd; microplacoid present. The doubleclaw is of the hufelandi type (a Y), with accessory points on the primary branch, and is about 8 microns long. The eggs are round, with a diameter of about 5.7~, and have truncated cone-like projections, that get wider distally into a disk at the notched margin; the shell is irregularly punctated. It is possible that this species is a variety of *M. hufelandi*; in fact, the eggs are practically identical because it is not rare that also in those of *M. hufelandi* the distal disk of the ornamentation is notched and that on the shell is lacking the small crown of points around the base of the projection. The diameter of the buccal tube and the shape of the tube and macroplacoids are also rather variable in hufelandi; it seems therefore necessary to study more abundant material, so that this species could be considered valid and truly distinct from hufelandi. Of note is also the aberrant form of *M. hufelandi* with 2 macroplacoids (see the description of this species) which cannot be distinguished from hibiscus in some ways.  
-Ramazzotti & Macci 1983

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

HABITAT: Moss.

OBSERVATION METHODS: PC and DIC.