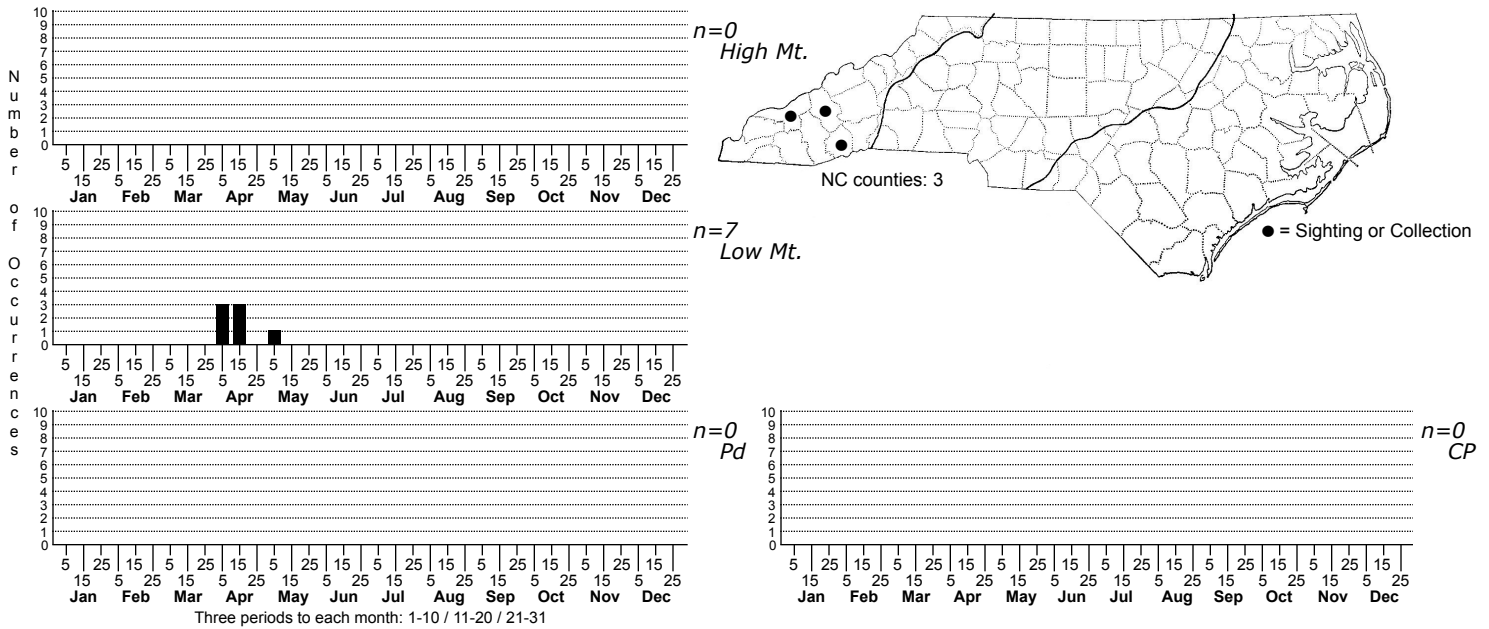


Murrayon hastatus



FAMILY: Murrayidae

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: Morphologically indistinguishable from species originally described from Europe, no molecular evidence for further comparison. Eggs needed for positive ID.

SPECIES COMMENTS: Freshwater. In US, only recorded from Alaska, Kansas and GSMNP and surrounding areas.

ID COMMENTS: This is an aquatic species, very wide-spread for example in moss of peat-bogs. Length up to 312 μm , eye spots present. Buccal tube medium wide (diameter about 4.5 μm), pharynx oval containing the apophyses and 2, or else 3, macroplacoids; microplacoid absent. In general the macroplacoids are 2: the first is longer than the second and is constricted toward the middle, or more caudally, so it appears broken sometimes simulating two distinct macroplacoids in contact with each other; other times the macroplacoids are really three and in such case 1 and 2 are very close, 3 is separated and shorter than 1 + 2. Doubleclaws of the echinogenitus type (a V), with small lunule at the base; principal branch with two accessory points. Eggs, deposited free and very characteristic, round or oval, with diameter about 62-75 μm excluding the ornamentations and 75-90 μm including the latter. The egg possesses an external transparent zone, in which is immersed – in all or in part – the projections of goblet shape, of heraldic fleur-de-lis, etc. The female has clear, but not absolute tendency to deposit eggs – two or three at a time – in the interior of foreign body cavities, for example in shells of Ostracods or Cladocera, in the molt of Acarina (exuvia), etc. The species was collected in water and in submerged moss in various European localities, Italy included, as well as Sumatra (Typ. loc.: Scotland and Switzerland).
-Ramazzotti & Maucci 1983

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

HABITAT: Freshwater streams.

OBSERVATION METHODS: PC and DIC.