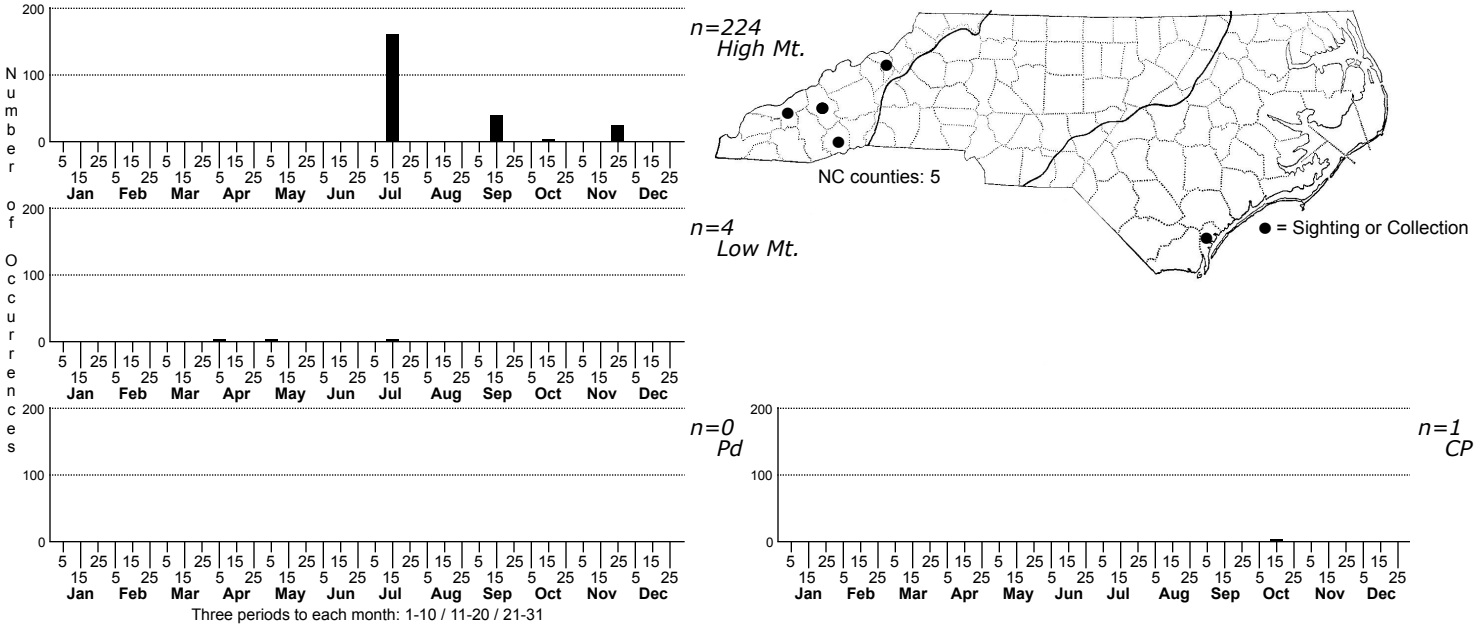
Claxtonia maucci



FAMILY: Echiniscidae

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: Transferred from Echiniscus by Gasiorek et al. 2019. DNA analysis by Gasiorek et al. 2019 confirmed species identity and included specimens from Roan Mountain, TN.

SPECIES COMMENTS: Terrestrial. North American endemic.

ID COMMENTS: Reddish color; the sculpture is a very coarse and irregular granulation, finer in the anterior part of the paired plates, where it is also partially lacking: it is also absent on a good part of the cephalic plate, with exclusion of a small rostral zone. The scapular plate possess very pronounced and protruding posterior external angles; the median plate 3 is absent; the terminal is clearly facetted and bears the usual notches. Cephalic appendices without special peculiarity: cephalic papilla large and elongated; lateral cirri A fairly long (about 9O microns in an individual of 19O microns), but much shorter than in E. wendti, clava well developed. Laterally there are two pair of characteristic cuticular projections, in hemispherical shape or slightly conical, positioned respectively between the first and second paired plates, and between the paired plate and the terminal (they are therefore approximately from appendices C and D). These typical lateral projections -- which sometimes seem turned up at the external posterior angles of the paired plates -- may be more or less developed; Fig. 217 shows an individual mounted in Faure's solution, where it at once has a slight swelling: but they are however always very visible, even in the living animal, and are constantly present in the numerous individuals observed. There are no other lateral or dorsal appendices. Internal claws of the fourth pair of legs with extremely small sharp spurs, similar to spines, positioned about a quarter of the length of the claws on the 4th pair of legs -- which bears the usual papilla and dentate collar -- and yet nearer to the base of the first three pair; the dentate collar is composed of 7-12 irregular teeth, of different size between them, often distant to the bases; the legs of the first pair have a small triangular spine. The species is easily recognized by the two pair of typical lateral projections and by the external posterior angles of the scapular plate strongly accentuated.
-Ramazzotti & Maucci 1983

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

HABITAT: Tree lichen and tree moss. Rarely in rock lichen and rock moss.

OBSERVATION METHODS: PC, DIC, and Fluorescence Microsocpy.