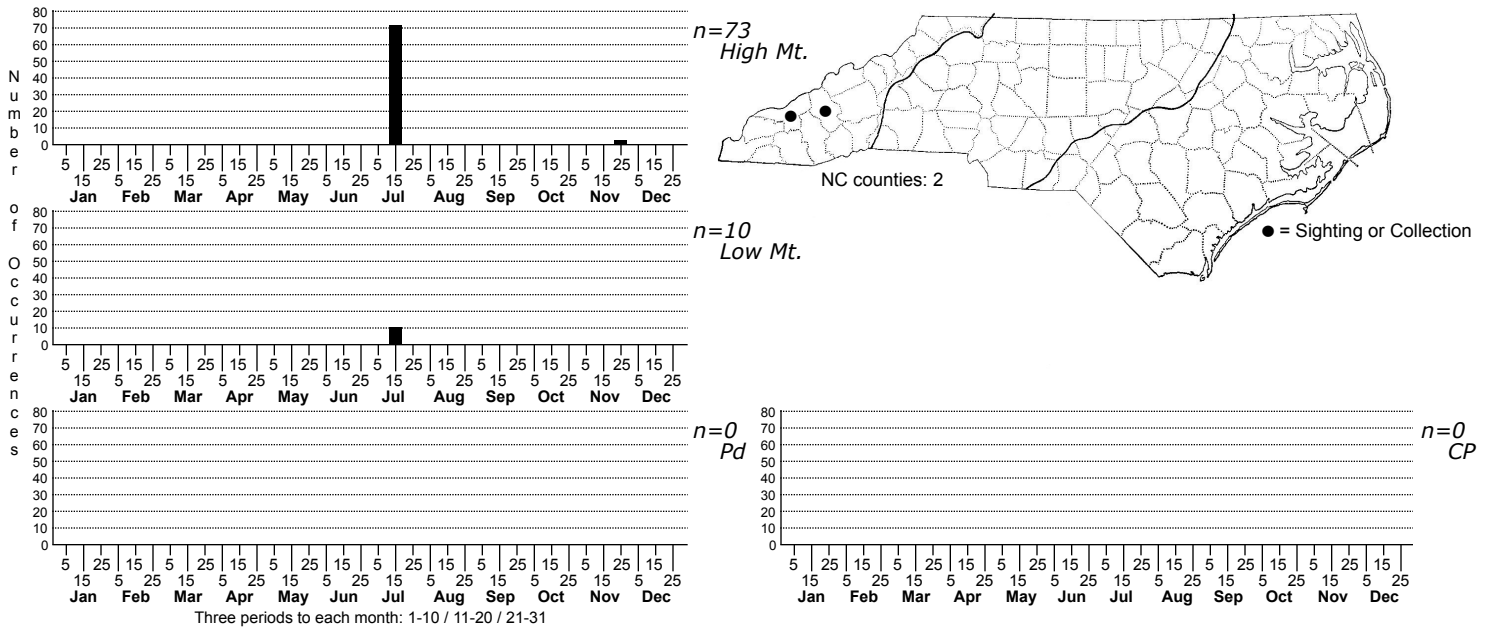


# *Pseudechiniscus (Pseudechiniscus) brevimontanus*



FAMILY: Echiniscidae

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: Morphologically indistinguishable from species first described in Tennessee. No molecular evidence for further comparison.

SPECIES COMMENTS: Terrestrial. Range from N. to S. America. Reported from various states in S.E. USA.

ID COMMENTS: Holotype, female. Body length 165  $\mu\text{m}$ . Eyespots present. Cephalic plate faceted. Fine cuticular granulation on cephalic and scapular plates; larger, heavy granulation on margins of segmental plates II and III and pseudosegmental plates, with central horizontal band of less prominent granulation. Median plates 1 and 2 divided; medium plate 3 undivided. Coarse granulation on median plates uniform. Ventral cuticular granulation present with a dense patch between legs II and between legs III; a mottled appearance on the rest of the ventral surface. Cirri A short, 31.0  $\mu\text{m}$ ; adjacent clavae well-formed, 4.5  $\mu\text{m}$ ; external (18.0  $\mu\text{m}$ ) and internal (15.0  $\mu\text{m}$ ) buccal cirri present and prominent. Cephalic papillae dome-shaped, 4.0  $\mu\text{m}$ . Two triangular projections extending 6.5  $\mu\text{m}$  from caudal margin of pseudosegmental plate. Four single claws per leg; internal claws with thin, downward-curved ventral spurs. No dorsal leg spines; small, blunt papillae on legs IV. Collected from dried moss and lichen on fallen tree at site 2 on Short Mountain on 29 December 1990. -Kendall-Fite & Nelson 1996

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

HABITAT: Tree moss and lichen, rock lichen, and rarely soil.

OBSERVATION METHODS: PC and DIC.