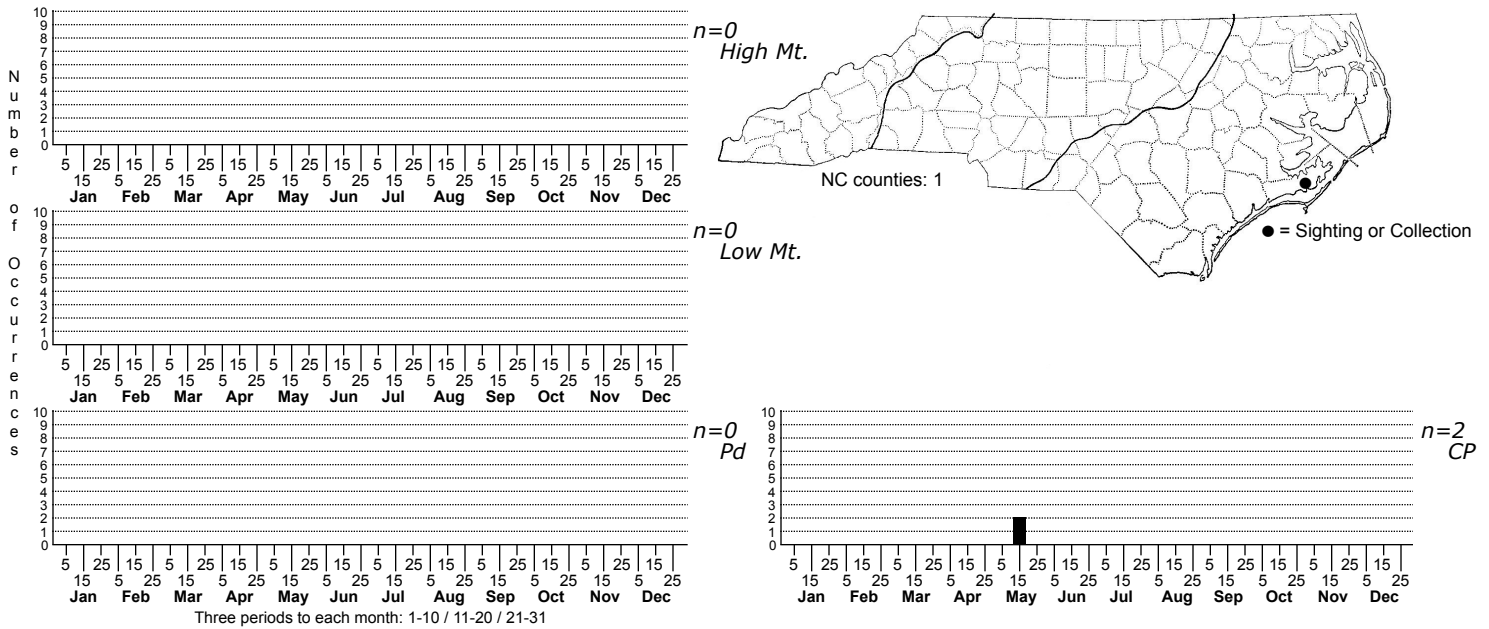


Tanarctus dendriticus



FAMILY: Tanarctidae

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: There are currently (Oct 2023) 15 species known for this genus.

SPECIES COMMENTS: Marine. Discovered in NC at 4000 m depth off the coast of Cape Lookout. Only two additional records since, one in France and one in Brazil. Therefore, apparently restricted to Atlantic Ocean.

ID COMMENTS: The bases of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd legs are in contact with each other, giving the animal a stellate appearance. The cuticle has small, lateral rods higher than 1~1, in numbers of 20 per 10 microns. The head has trapezoidal shape, clearly delimited from the trunk. The cephalic cirri arise from bases 4-5 microns high, are very wide at the base and attenuated distally. Unpaired median cirrus, 9 microns; internal median cirri (whose bases are connected by a transparent membrane), 20 microns; external median cirri, 12 microns. The lateral cephalic lobes are slightly prominent, but present a lateral fold forming an outgrowth; these lobes bear only cirrus A (10 microns). Clavae absent. On the posterior part of the body are present the cirri E (19 microns), with enlarged bases. Dorsally, above the 4th legs, on a base of 4 microns is inserted the caudal bristles. These have greater diameter than the other appendices and measure 105 microns: simple and swollen in the proximal part, divided then into four secondary branches, of which the proximal is branched further into strong tertiary branches. The legs are conformed according to the general plan for the genus. The internal digits (10 microns long) are on a common base, the external digits are 7-8 microns long. The claws, sickle-shaped, bear one external spur.
-Ramazzotti & Maucci 1983.

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

HABITAT: Deep sea fine sand.

OBSERVATION METHODS: PC.