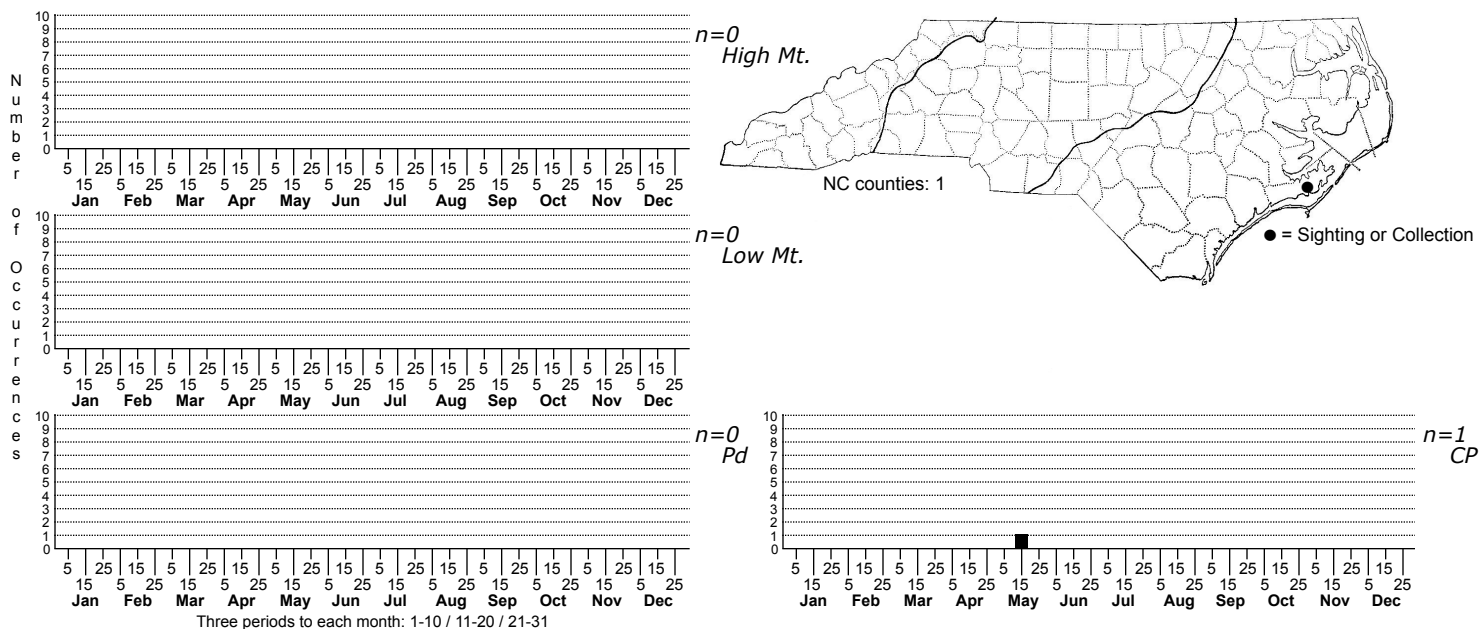


Tanarctus heterodactylus



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. Also reported from Faroe Islands, Brazil and Indian Ocean.

ID COMMENTS: Oval shape, slender. The cuticle is strongly punctated on the dorsal surface. The head is trapezoidal, clearly separated from the trunk with a lateral constriction. The cephalic cirri depart from thick bases: unpaired median cirrus, 9 microns; internal median cirri (25 microns) are united to each other by a translucent membrane; external median cirri, 23 microns. The lateral cephalic lobes are poorly developed and bear the cirri A (15 microns) and the clavae (155 microns), swollen at the bases. The mouth is a transverse fissure, situated ventrally. The trunk does not bear lateral constrictions. On the posterior part, the cirri E measure 25 microns. The caudal bristles, swollen on the proximal part, are not branched and bear a small basal spur: their length is 150 microns. bristle) of trapezoidal shape, and a tibia, much narrower, ending with a point; the tarsi are triangular. Each leg bears a pair of median digits (10 microns), which have at their base a cuticular fold, and bear distally a sickle-shaped claw, with external spur. At the side of the digit exists two small cuticular outgrowths of 4-5 microns, without claws.
-Ramazzotti & Maucci 1983

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

HABITAT: Deep sea fine sand.

OBSERVATION METHODS: PC.