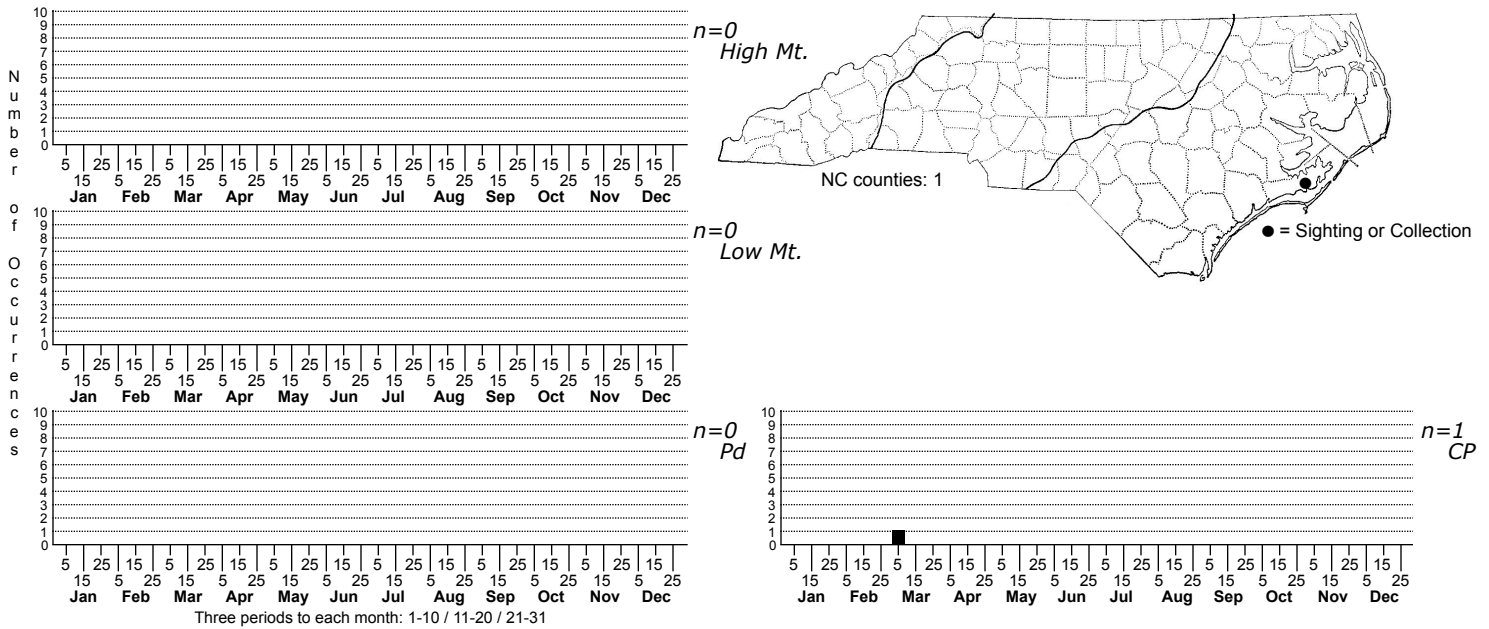


Stygarcus granulatus



FAMILY: Stygarctidae SUBFAMILY: Stygarctinae

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: There are currently (2023) eight species in this genus.

SPECIES COMMENTS: Marine. Appears to be U.S. endemic. Only recorded from Mass. and N.C.

ID COMMENTS: The cephalic appendices are: a median cirrus, internal buccal cirri 8.21 microns, cephalic papillae (or anterior clavae) 7.2 microns, external buccal cirri 11.4 microns, lateral cirri A 14.7 microns, clavae 6.5 microns; the bases of all the cephalic cirri are enclosed in tiny cups. Mouth subterminal, on a retractile buccal cone; pharynx subspherical, buccal tube and stylets 27 microns, stylet supports absent. Eyes absent. Cuticle transparent and transformed into a series of dorso-lateral flat strips, with the appearance of dorsal and ventral unpaired plates (one around the head, three around the trunk, and one around the caudal part). There exists slender thickenings between the dorsal plates I and II, and between II and III. Dorsal plates thick, with small sparse refringent structures. The cephalic plate and those of the body are ventro-laterally plates. Only on the cephalic plate there is a second series of sharp processes, positioned on the posterior margin. The caudal plate has two long and pointed terminal processes of 16.3 microns. There exists two long lateral spines (30.4 microns), with enlarged bases -- armulated in some examples -- of about 3.9 microns inserted on the tubercles near the anterior end of the caudal section of the body. The first three pair of legs are inserted in round spaces, positioned in the anterior angles of the ventral plates I-III; these legs have equal length (about 25 microns); the 4th pair of legs is inserted latero-terminally in space positioned at the posterior angle of the ventral caudal plate; this 4th pair is longer (39.2 microns). The simple, terminal claws are four on all the legs, with basal connections; legs not digitated. Each one of the two median claws of each leg with a filamentous process departing along the dorsal surface of the claw, then slightly diverging, with an expansion of 13 microns beyond the end of the claw. Claws of the 4th pair of legs 10 microns long, those of the other three pair 6.5 microns. On the 4th pair of legs there is a small lateral papilla, near the junction of the body. -Ramazzotti & Maucci 1983

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

HABITAT: Intertidal sand, mid-high tide.

OBSERVATION METHODS: PC.