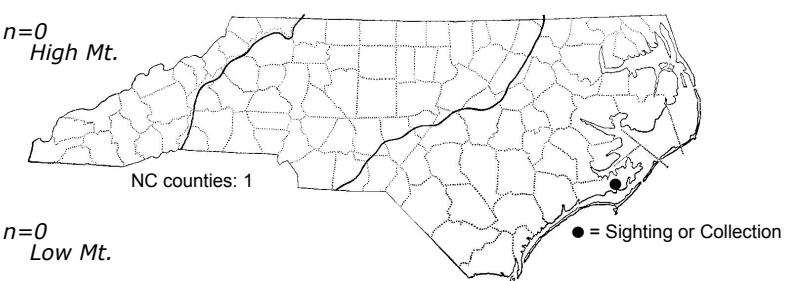
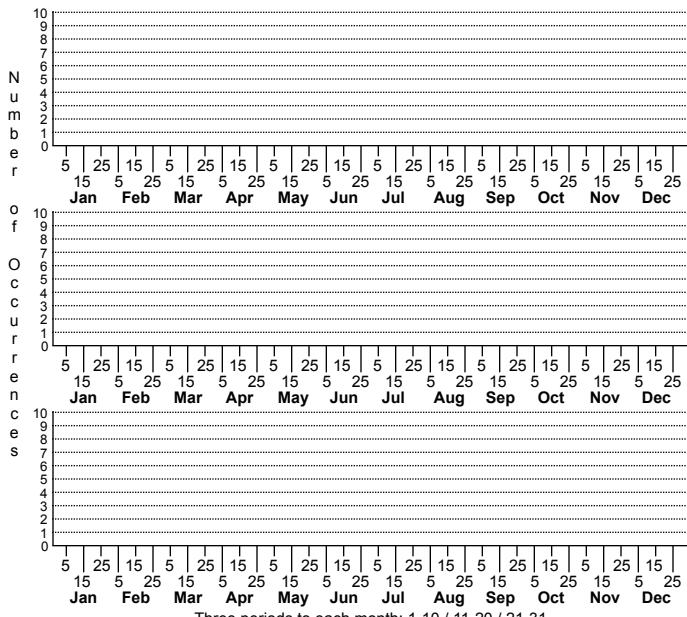


Tholoeuctus natans natans



FAMILY: Styraconyxidae

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: This genus contains only two species. *Tholoeuctus natans* is divided into two subspecies, *T. natans* and *T. natans pedunculatus*.

SPECIES COMMENTS: Marine. *Tholoeuctus natans natans* has been reported widely around the world, while *T. n. pedunculatus* is known only from the Mediterranean Sea.

ID COMMENTS: External epicuticle bell-shaped, body elongated, thin: complete complement of cephalic appendages. Primary clavae ovoid, secondary clavae expanded ventrally. Coxal setae (leg sense organs) only present on P1; P4 with papilla. Cirri A and E with funnel-shaped cirrophore, into which part of the scapus can be retracted. Three-hook claws, very fine accessory hooks; males and juveniles may have simple claws on outer digits. Oral tube with two lateral protrusions at mid-length. Long, thin stylet holders and non-segmented stylets on the buccal tube. Reduced or missing placoids; only two small round apodemes are found at the anterior part of the pharyngeal bulb.

-Kristensen & Renaud-Mornant 1983

DISTRIBUTION: Please refer to the dot map.

HABITAT: Deep sea fine sand.

OBSERVATION METHODS: Unknown.