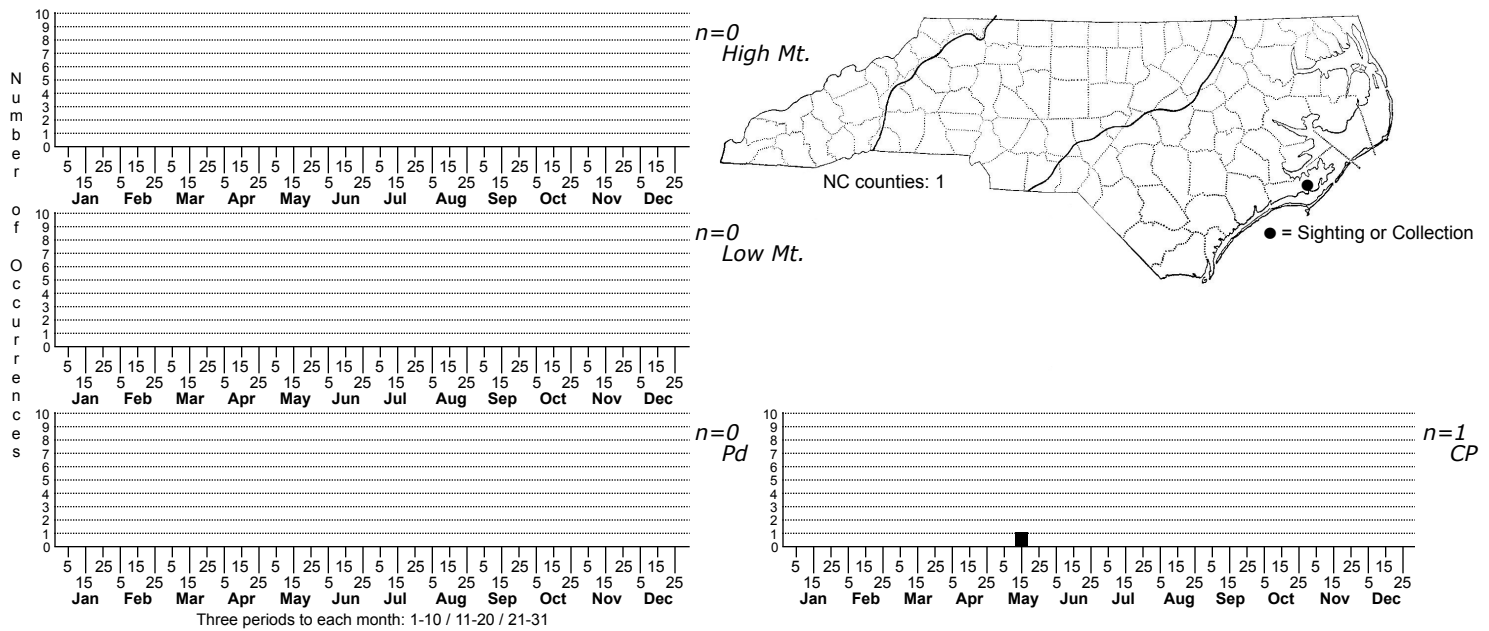


Tholoarctus natans natans



FAMILY: Styraconyxidae

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

SPECIES COMMENTS: Marine. Tholoarctus 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.