Nemapogon multistriatella Many-lined Nemapogon



FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: ONLINE PHOTOS: TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Dietz (1905) TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: This is a rather distinctive <i>Nemapogon</i> that has a series of dark longitudinal streaks on the forewing that run roughly parallel to one another. The following detailed description is based in part on that of Dietz (1905). The antennae are about one-half the wing length and are brownish above with a whitish basal joint. The palps are mottled with varying amounts of whitish and brown scaling, and the vertex and thorax has a mixture of sordid white and brown scales.

The forewing ground color is white and has a series irregular, longitudinal dark brown streaks that run roughly parallel to one another. The area between the streaks is peppered with dark-brown scales. The costal has a prominent dark brown spot near the middle of the wing, along with a smaller spot at around one-fourth. A series of five, irregular, small spots occur along the posterior half of the costa. These progressively decrease in size towards the apex and are sometimes fused. The tornus has a large dark spot that opposes the median spot of the costa, and the outer margin has a series of small, dark spots at the base of the fringe. The fringe often has a mixture of white and light-brown scales that are peppered with dark-brown dots. A series of 2-4 whitish streaks are often evident that cut through these. The hindwing varies from pale grayish white to light gray or brown, with a slightly lighter-colored fringe.

DISTRIBUTION: <i>Nemapogon multistriatella</i> is found throughout much of the eastern US and adjoining areas of southern Canada. The range extends from Ontario, Quebec and the New England states southwestward to Alabama, Louisiana and eastern Texas. From there, it extends westward to Arkansas, Oklahoma and Illinois. As of 2024, our rather sparse records are from the Coastal Plain and lower elevations in the mountains.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Many local populations appear to produce two or more generations per year, with records extending from January through October. As of 2024, our very limited records extend from early-April to late-August.

HABITAT: The habitat requirements are poorly documented, but local populations appear to favor both mesic hardwood forests and relatively xeric communities.

FOOD: Very limited observations suggest that the larvae feed on fungi. Dietz (1905) reported that an adult was reared from a fungal body that was growing on a beech stump.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are rarely seen at lights and most aspects of the life history are undocumented.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR[S2S4]

STATE PROTECTION:

COMMENTS: <i>Nemapogon multistriatella</i>appears to be a relatively uncommon species throughout its range, including
North Carolina.
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