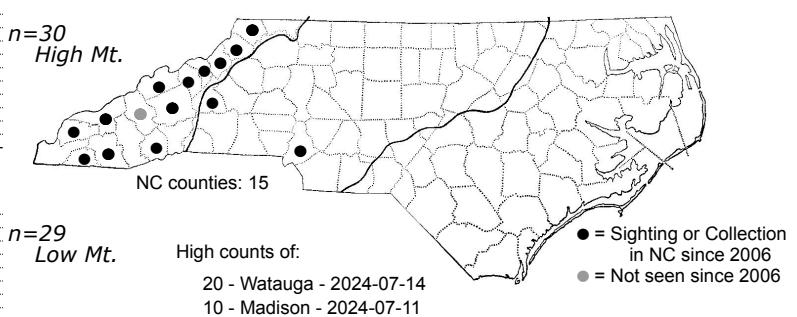
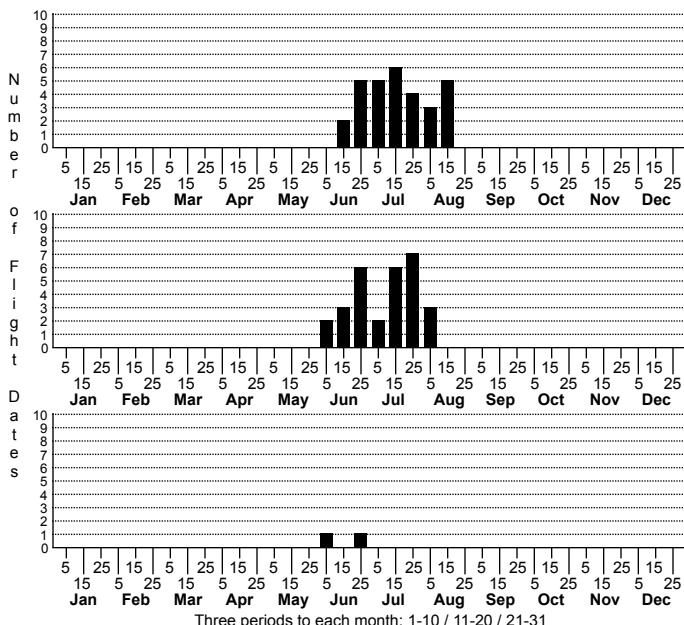


Scoparia cinereomedia Sooty Scoparia



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Scopariinae TRIBE: [Scopariini]
TAXONOMIC COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Munroe (1972)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: In this species, the basal third of the forewing is typically dark brown and strongly contrasts with the light gray to whitish median area that is dusted with darker specks. The antemedial line abuts the dark basal patch, and the dark orbicular and claviform spots are obscure. The postmedian area is also often dark brown and contrast with the pale subterminal area. The postmedial line can vary from being smoothly bowed to obtusely angled, and the reniform spot is dark and often roughly x-shaped. A rather well-developed row of subterminal spots are present along the termen, along with a short dark dash or triangular mark near the middle of the termen. The hindwing varies from light brown to grayish-brown.

A light morph of this species exists that lacks the strongly contrasting dark and pale areas of the wing. This form has a more-or-less subdued grayish or light brown wing throughout with a lighter postmedial line, and can be difficult to distinguish from *Scoparia basalis*. Munroe (1972) noted that in the latter the antemedial line is generally obtusely angulate at or near Cu and is seldom evenly arcuate. In addition, the orbicular and claviform spots are much more distinct than in *S. cinereomedia*, the claviform is usually produced as a black dash, and the reniform tends to be larger and is 8-shaped and well formed. The postmedial line is also farther from the termen and is often somewhat incurved before and behind the median flexure. The uniformly colored form of *S. cinereomedia* appears to be uncommon to rare in North Carolina.

DISTRIBUTION: *Scoparia cinereomedia* is found in southern Canada from southern Ontario eastward to Nova Scotia, with an apparent geographic isolate in Manitoba. In the eastern US it occurs from Maine westward to Ohio and southward through the Appalachian region to eastern Tennessee and western North Carolina. As of 2023, all of our records are from the Blue Ridge, with the exception of one apparently isolated population in Mecklenburg County.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults fly from May through August in different areas of the range, with a seasonal peak commonly in June and July. Local populations appear to be univoltine throughout the range. As of 2023, our records range from early June through mid-August.

HABITAT: Most specimens in North Carolina have been found in mesic hardwood forests, including rich cove forests and northern hardwood forests. They have also been found in wooded residential neighborhoods in the Blue Ridge, and in a dry to mesic oak-hickory forest in the Piedmont.

FOOD: The food resources that are exploited by this species are unknown (Munroe, 1972). It presumably does not feed on the leaves of vascular plants.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR[S3-S4]

STATE PROTECTION: Has no legal protection, although permits are required to collect it on state parks and other public lands.

COMMENTS: This species reaches its southern limit in eastern Tennessee and western North Carolina. More information is needed on its feeding ecology and abundance before we can fully assess its conservation status within the state.