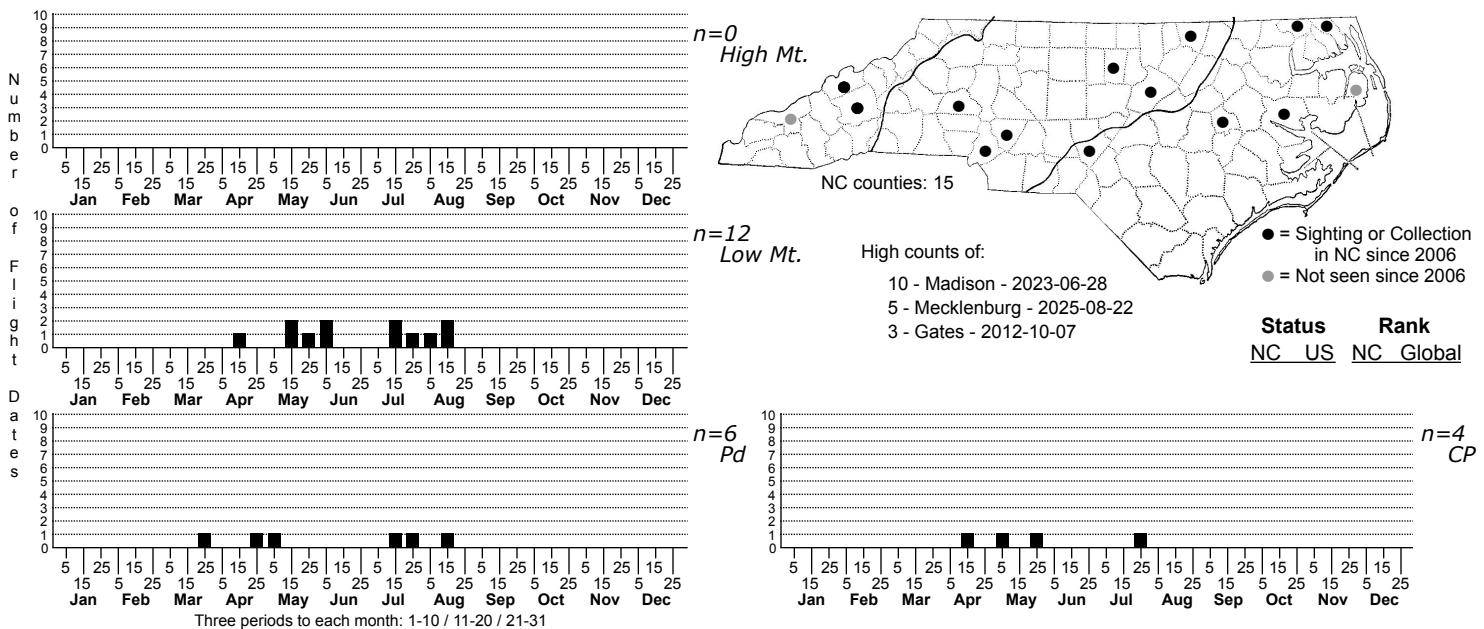


## *Crocidophora pustuliferalis* Scalloped Crocidophora



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Pyraustinae TRIBE: Pyraustini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: The genus *Crocidophora* contains seven described species from North America and India. There are three recognized species in North America and all occur in North Carolina.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Munroe (1976)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The following is based in part on the description by Munroe (1976). In this species the forewing is light brown to light fawn-colored. The postmedial line is dark brown to blackish, is conspicuously toothed, and is evenly curved between the inner margin and costa. It is followed by a similar toothed subterminal line with deep acute dentations that point inwardly on the veins. The area basal to the postmedian line has a few dark smudges and irregular marks that may represent remnants of a broken antemedial line. The terminal line is represented as a series of small but distinct black dots, and the costa is darker than the general ground color. The males have a large fovea in and behind the cell of the forewing with an overlapping ridge of shining scales on the underside (Munroe, 1976).

*Crocidophora pustuliferalis* is similar to *Ostrinia penitalis*, but the latter has a well-developed antemedial line and lacks a line of black dots on the termen. The males also lack a fovea.

DISTRIBUTION: *Crocidophora pustuliferalis* is found in the southeastern U.S. from Maryland and North Carolina westward to Kentucky, Arkansas, and northeastern Oklahoma, and southward to central Florida, Alabama, southern Mississippi and Louisiana. As of 2023, we have records from all three physiographic provinces but are lacking records from the southern Coastal Plain where the host plant is common.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults mostly fly from March through September in different areas of the range, but are occasionally seen during the winter months. As of 2023, we have records from late-March through mid-August. Local populations appear to be bivoltine in North Carolina.

HABITAT: Local populations are centered around canebrakes and cane thickets.

FOOD: The larvae feed on native cane (*Arundinaria* spp.; Munroe, 1976). In North Carolina, this species has been found in Coastal Plain habitat where Switch Cane (*Arundinaria tecta*) is the most likely host, as well as in the Blue Ridge where River Cane or Giant Cane (*A. gigantea*) is the most likely host. None of our occurrences are associated with Hill Cane (*A. appalachiana*). One record from a residential neighborhood in Orange County was from a site next to a large stand of cultivated Black Bamboo; no native cane is located within several miles of the site.

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights and the larvae can be found in webbed leaves of cane.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S3S4

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

COMMENTS: This species is generally uncommon in the state due to its reliance of cane.