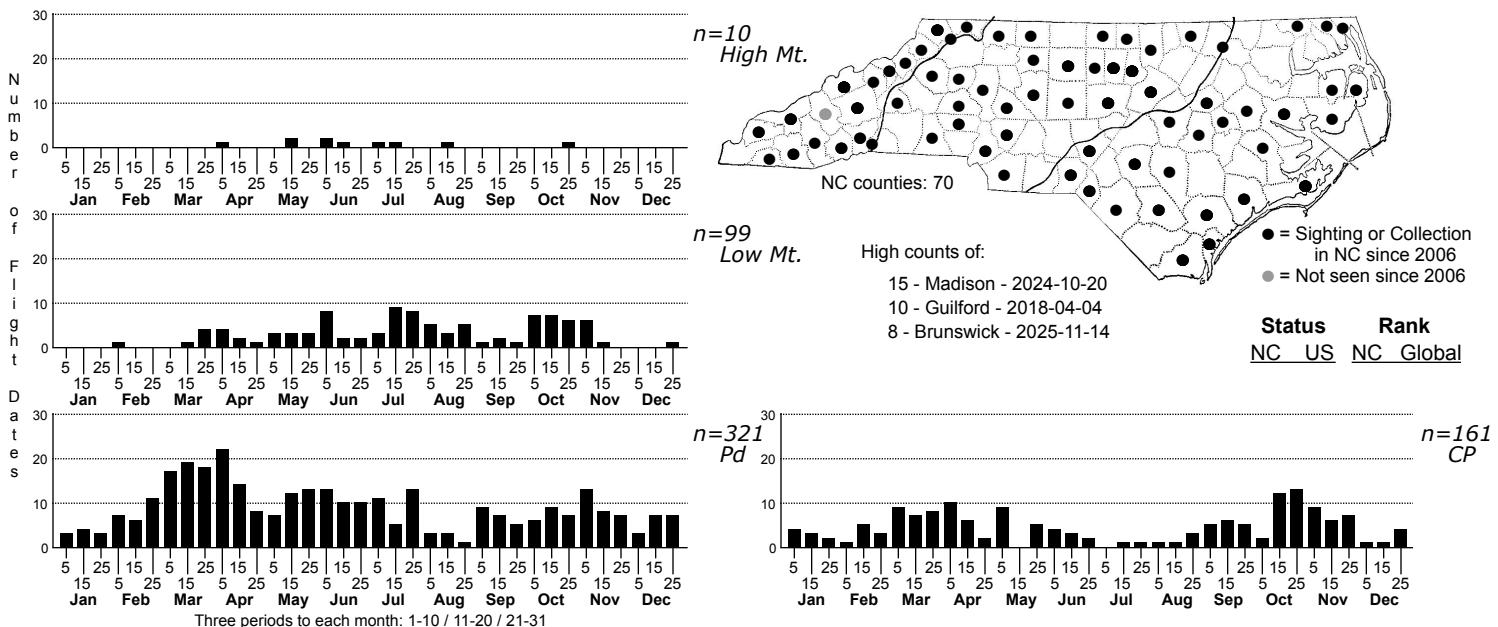


## *Udea rubigalis* Celery Leafier Moth



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Pyraustinae TRIBE: Spilomelini  
 TAXONOMIC COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984); Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Munroe (1966)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The following description is based on that of Forbes (1923). The forewing ground is usually a dull light brown, but is sometimes reddish or dusted with black. The orbicular spot is a slightly darker circle with a lighter center, while the reniform is an hourglass-shaped spot. The antemedial line is broadly dentate. The postmedial line runs parallel to the outer margin on the inner third, then loops inward and continues as an excurred line on the costal half. The termen has a row of fine dark dots, and there is a double gray line in the fringe. The hindwing is much paler and phases into fuscous toward the outer margin. There is a fuscous bar on the upper half of the discocellular, a fine dark gray postmedial line, and a line of dots on the termen.

DISTRIBUTION: *Udea rubigalis* is a wide-ranging species that occurs across much of southern Canada (British Columbia to Prince Edward Island), throughout much of the eastern U.S., and in California, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado and Wyoming in the West. This species has been found in every state in the eastern U.S. from Maine westward to North Dakota and southward to Texas, the Gulf coast states, and Florida. The range also extends into Central and South America. It occurs statewide in North Carolina.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Local populations are multivoltine and can be found year-round or nearly so, except for the coldest months of the year at the most northern latitudes.

HABITAT: Local populations are common in open habitats such as early successional fields, roadways, power line corridors, residential communities, and in gardens and cultivated fields.

FOOD: The larvae are highly polyphagous and feed on a wide variety of herbaceous plants, including cultivated crops and greenhouse ornamentals (Miller, 1931; Ball et al., 1935; Schaffner, 1959; Allyson, 1984; Covell, 1984; Heppner, 2007; Beadle and Leckie, 2012). Crops that are eaten include beets, celery, cucumbers, spinach, sweet potatoes, garden peas, radishes, alfalfa, artichokes, lettuce, as well as broccoli and its related forms. The larvae can also be a serious pest in greenhouse operations where snapdragons, chrysanthemums, petunias, nasturtiums, and other ornamental flowers are grown (Miller, 1931). Other plants that have been reported as hosts that are found in North Carolina are species of *Amaranthus*, ragweed, beggarticks, *Boehmeria*, *Chenopodium*, *Commelinaceae*, *Convularia*, *Delphinium*, *Erectites*, *Erigeron*, *Eupatorium*, *Geranium*, *Gnaphalium*, *Heliotropium*, *Hydrocotyle*, *Leucanthemum*, *Parietaria*, *Plantago*, *Portulaca*, *Rubus*, *Rumex*, *Solanum*, *Sonchus*, *Specularia*, *Stachys*, *Trifolium*, *Verbesina*, and *Viola*. In North Carolina, larvae have been reared from celery and Small's Ragwort (*Packera anonyma*).

OBSERVATION METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights and are occasionally seen resting in the open during the day.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 S5

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

COMMENTS: This is a very common species that is found statewide.