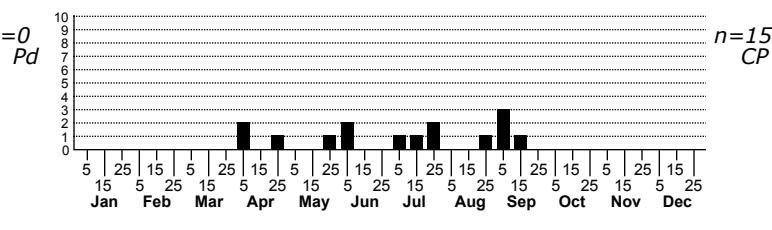
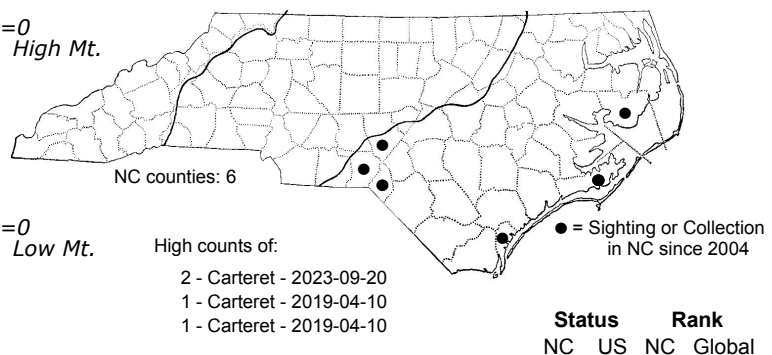


Prionapteryx serpentella Serpentine Grass-veneer



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Crambinae TRIBE: Prionapterygini
 TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:
 ONLINE PHOTOS:
 TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:
 TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: In this species the head and thorax are brown with white speckling. The forewing has complex patterning that mostly consists of a brown ground color that is intermixed with whitish lines and patches and dark brown marks. The wing base has a distinctive white line that starts on the inner margin and extends obliquely to the base, then angles sharply apically to run parallel to the costa. At about one-fourth the wing length it typically connects to a group of diffuse and often fused whitish patches that extend from the inner margin to the line. The line then continues forward, narrows, and angles back to connect to the costa at about one-third the wing length where it fuses with a narrow, white costal streak. The costal streak extends apically and arcs inward before terminating below a white, trapezoidal patch at about three-fourth the wing length. The patch is just proximal to a white subterminal line that is margined narrowly with black inwardly. The line slants from the costal towards the outer margin then sharply angles basally and curved to meet the inner margin perpendicular at around four-fifths. Three other conspicuous white marks are present on the forewing that include an elongated streak just below the boldly, double-lined apex, a squarish patch in the middle of the subterminal region that adjoins the subterminal line and is often intersected by a dark brown line, and a dagger-shaped mark in the middle of the wing at around one-half the wing length. The white postmedial line is highly jagged and extends from the inner margin just beyond the middle of the wing before terminating near the center of the wing. The hindwing is uniformly brown with a pale fringe that has a narrow, dark basal line.

DISTRIBUTION: *Prionapteryx serpentella* is found in coastal and Coastal Plain habitats from New Jersey southward to southern Florida and westward to Louisiana. It is also known from the Bahamas. As of 2023, all of our records are from the Coastal Plain, including the Sandhills and maritime habitats.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults fly year-round in Florida and mostly from April through August elsewhere. As of 2023, our records range from early-April through mid-September. Dune and barrier island populations appear to have two or more broods per year.

HABITAT: Our records are from xeric habitats, including Longleaf Pine communities in the Sandhills, and dune, scrub and maritime forest communities on the coast.

FOOD: The host plants are undocumented.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S1S3]

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

COMMENTS: This species is relatively uncommon outside of Florida. We need additional information on its distribution, abundance and larval life history before we can accurately assess its conservation status within the state.