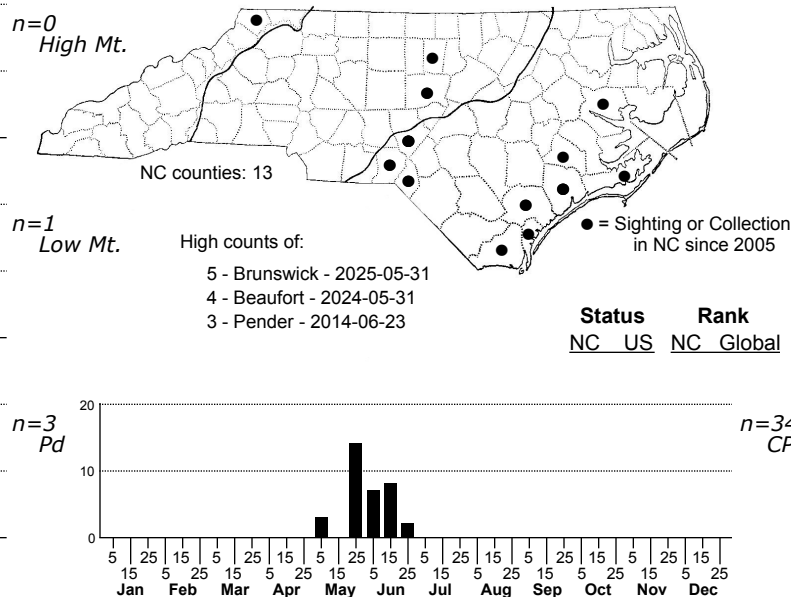
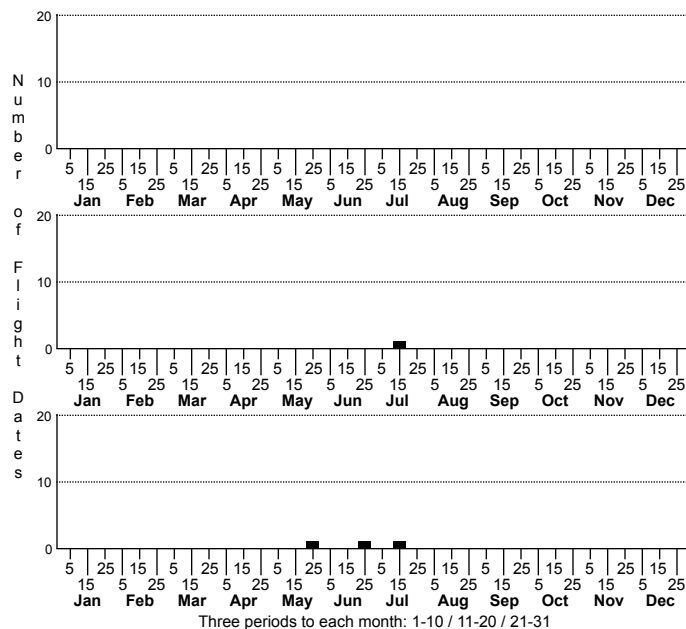


Crambus multilinellus Multinellus Grass-veneer



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Crambinae TRIBE: Crambini

TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS: The genus *Crambus* includes around 155 species that are distributed globally. Some of the species are significant pests that can cause damage to agricultural crops, lawns and rangelands. This is one of 41 species in this genus that occur in North America north of Mexico (Pohl and Nanz, 2023), and one of fifteen species that occur in North Carolina.

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Fernald (1887)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The following is based in part on the original description by Fernald (1887). The palps, head, and thorax are dull orangish-yellow, while the ground of the forewing is a brighter orangish-yellow. The orangish-yellow forewing color is divided by a series of narrow, longitudinal, silvery lines to create a multi-striped pattern, with each of the wider orangish-yellow stripes margined with black scales. The most conspicuous mark is a white stripe on the costal half that extends from the wing base to around three-fourths the wing base. It is split along most of its length by a wide orangish-yellow line that is margined with black scales. The extreme edge of the costa is fuscous. The orangish-yellow subterminal line is angled outward and margined with a line of silver scales on the outer edge. The orangish-yellow stripes and silvery lines on the basal two-thirds of the wing run all the way to the subterminal line and fuse with it. Other conspicuous marks include two longitudinal white streaks on the costal half between the tip of the white band and the subterminal line, and a black terminal line on the costal third of the outer margin that is replaced by a line of five black dots on the remainder of the outer margin. The fringe has a pale, metallic color, and the hindwing and fringe are white.

DISTRIBUTION: *Crambus multilinellus* is primarily found in the southeastern Coastal Plain and adjoining areas of the eastern and southern Piedmont from New Jersey southward to southern Florida, and eastward to Alabama and Mississippi. Isolated records that may reflect vagrants are also known from Minnesota, southern Illinois and Ontario. As of 2023, most of our records are from the Coastal Plain, including the Sandhills and coastal pine forests, with a few others from the eastern Piedmont and northern Blue Ridge.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been observed from March through September in different areas of the range, with the longest flight season in Florida. As of 2023, our records extend from early-May through mid-July, with a seasonal peak in May and June. Local populations in North Carolina are univoltine.

HABITAT: This species appears to be fairly common in savanna habitats in the Outer Coastal Plain, and in both xeric pine forest and Sandhill Seepage Slopes in the Fall-line Sandhills. We have, however, one record from a mesic, residential site in the Blue Ridge and a second from a Piedmont site that is located adjacent to a large hayfield. That field is intensively managed and frequently mowed, and may not support any native species of wetland grasses. A few other open, wet habitats in the vicinity may be more likely sources. A 1938 aerial photo shows that these fields existed at least that far back in time and that fields, in general, were much more extensive in this area at that time.

FOOD: This species probably feeds on grasses like other members of this genus, but this has not been verified.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights. They appear to be at least somewhat day-active, and can be flushed fairly easily by walking through its habitat.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: [GNR] S2S4

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

COMMENTS: This species appears to be uncommon throughout its range, including in North Carolina. Additional information is needed on its specific habitat requirements and host plants before we can accurately assess its conservation status within the state.