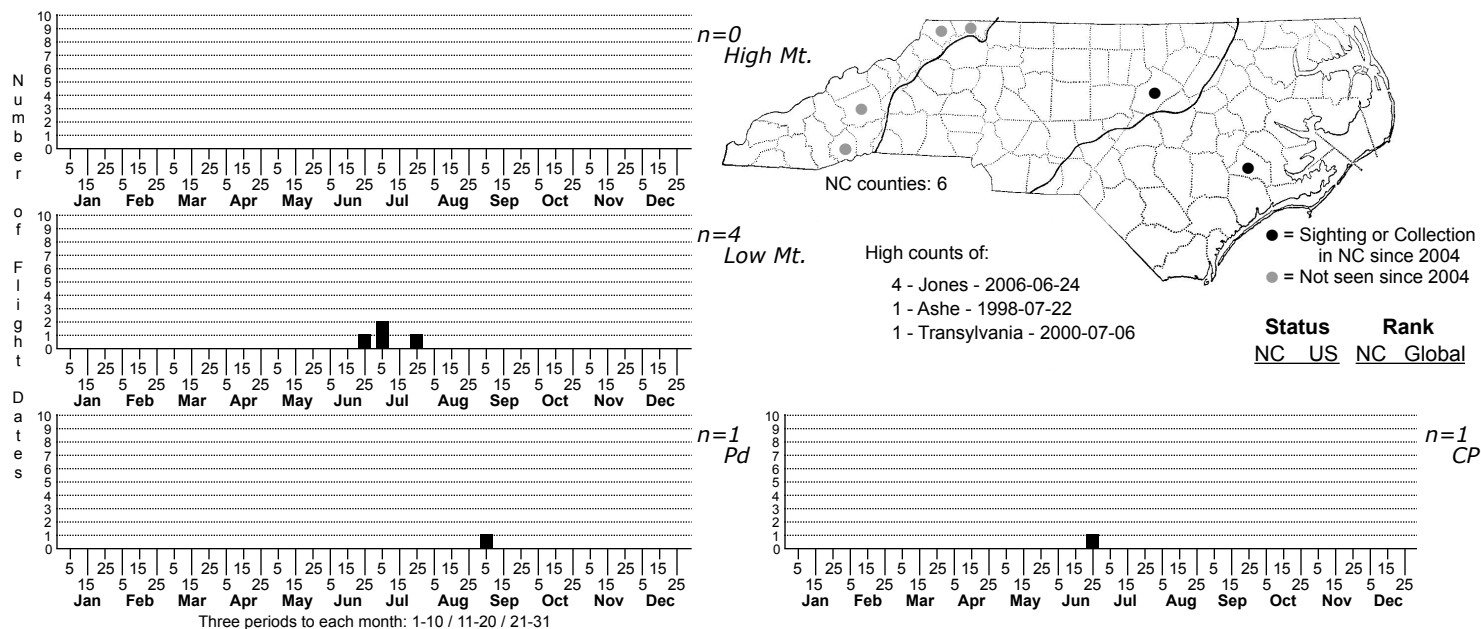


Crambus girardellus Girard's Grass-veneer Moth



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: Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Fernald (1896).

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: This is one of our most distinctive *Crambus* species that is predominantly white with contrasting markings. The palps, head, thorax and abdomen are white when viewed from above. When viewed from the sides the labial palps are pale fuscous and the thorax is orangish-yellow (Fernald, 1896). The ground color of the forewing is silvery white, with the most prominent marking being an orangish-yellow longitudinal stripe that is bordered dorsally with dark-brown scales. The stripe extends from the base of the wing to around three-fifths the wing length where it smoothly curves towards the apex before terminating in the subterminal area. Specimens sometimes deviate from the description above by have an apical dash and an oblique, double-lined connecting piece from the costa that forms an angulated subterminal fascia near the end of the stripe (Forbes, 1923). The terminal line is dark brown to blackish and edged with yellow, and there are five short, dark-brown dashes before it on the dorsal half of the wing. The hindwing is pure white, but sometimes smoky on the anterior half.

DISTRIBUTION: *Crambus girardellus* has northern affinities, with the range in the U.S. extending from Maine southward to North Carolina, northeastern South Carolina and northern Georgia, and westward to western Tennessee, eastern Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin and northeastern North Dakota. This species also occurs in bordering areas of southern Canada from Alberta and Saskatchewan eastward to Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. As of 2023, all of our records are from lower elevation sites in the Blue Ridge, except for one isolated record from the Piedmont and another from the Coastal Plain.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been observed from May through September in different areas of the range, with most states having a seasonal peak in June and July. As of 2023, all of our records are from late-June through late-July, except for one late-season Piedmont record from early September.

HABITAT: Our limited records are mostly from mesic hardwood forests or bottomland floodplains.

FOOD: The host plants are undocumented. Ainslie (1924) reared larvae and adults in captivity on Kentucky Bluegrass.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR [S2-S3]

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

COMMENTS: This is an uncommon species in North Carolina that is near the southern limit of its range. More information is needed on its distribution, abundance, preferred habitats and larval life history before we can accurately assess its conservation status within the state.